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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEXICO

AS A MARKET AND COMPETITOR FOR U. S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

by Kathryn H. Wylie

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Acknowledgments

I am indebted to so many people who have helped me in the preparation of this report that it would be impossible to name them all.

Excellent reporting over the past 10 years from the outstanding agricultural attachés stationed in Mexico City has provided background information and data on which to base my observations. Many specialists have appraised the different facets of the Mexican economy over the years, and I have used their results extensively in my own work. Government officials and other nationals of Mexico gave generously of their time and information that I might obtain a broader view of the country's problems and the progress made toward solving them, and I am grateful for their assistance. The one person to whom I owe most, however, is Mrs. Ana M. Gómez, Assistant Agricultural Attaché in the United States Embassy in Mexico City. She accompanied me on my travels throughout Mexico and gave me advice and counsel both in the field and in Mexico City. Her knowledge of the country, her wide acquaintance with officials and agricultural leaders, and her excellent reports on the agriculture there have been of inestimable value to me.

Foreword

In the summer of 1956, Mrs. Wylie and Mrs. Ana M. Gómez, U. S. Assistant Agricultural Attaché in Mexico City, traveled in Mexico's Central Plateau, in the irrigated regions of the northwest, and in the tropical areas of the southeast to study at first hand the changes that are taking place in the country's agriculture.

This report is a description and an appraisal of these changes and their effects on the market for United States farm products in Mexico and the competition that country will afford the United States in other markets of the world. No attempt was made to include all the details of Mexico's economy and agriculture since there is a wealth of published material covering different phases of this country. The Foreign Agricultural Service itself has published many articles, reports, and circulars on the subject; a selected list is given on page 60. The report does include, however, a series of appendix tables giving data by commodity on the principal products Mexico grows. Thus, farmers, farm organizations, and others will have statistical background against which to make their own appraisals of Mexico's changing agriculture.

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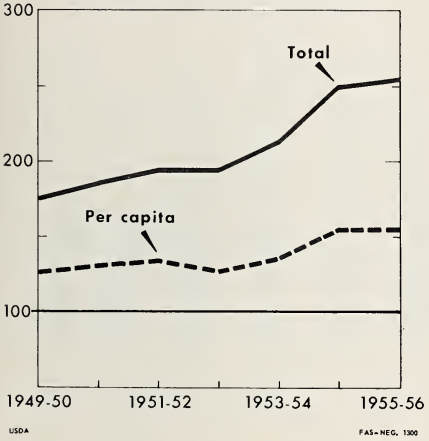
Mexico as a Market And a Competitor for U. S. Agricultural Products

By Kathryn H. Wylie*

Mexico, our closest neighbor to the south, has been enjoying a rapidly expanding economy over the past several years, and agriculture has shared in the expansion. Output has gone up steadily since the war, until in 1956 the index of agricultural and livestock production was 253, on a prewar base. Practically all branches of agriculture have shared in this rise. A large part of the increase has taken place in export crops, principally cotton and coffee, but production of domestic food crops has gone up too—wheat, 45 percent, and beans, 44 percent, during the past 5 years. Corn production, however, has increased at about the same rate as population.

Index of agricultural production in Mexico, 1935-39=100



The rapid advance in agricultural output has cut the demand for agricultural exports from the United States, particularly for wheat, and has intensified Mexican competition for United States cotton in other markets of the world. On the other hand, mounting supplies of coffee and other products complementary to those of the United States should broaden the foundation for a mutually profitable exchange of goods.

In the past the economies of the two countries have tended to complement each other. Mexico shipped north its coffee, bananas, cacao, pineapples, henequen, tomatoes, cattle, and sugar; and the United States in return sold wheat, corn, tallow, lard, processed milk, eggs, poultry, and fruits. Most of the agricultural items imported into Mexico still come from the United States but the totals are declining, whereas United States agricultural imports from Mexico have risen over the past several years.

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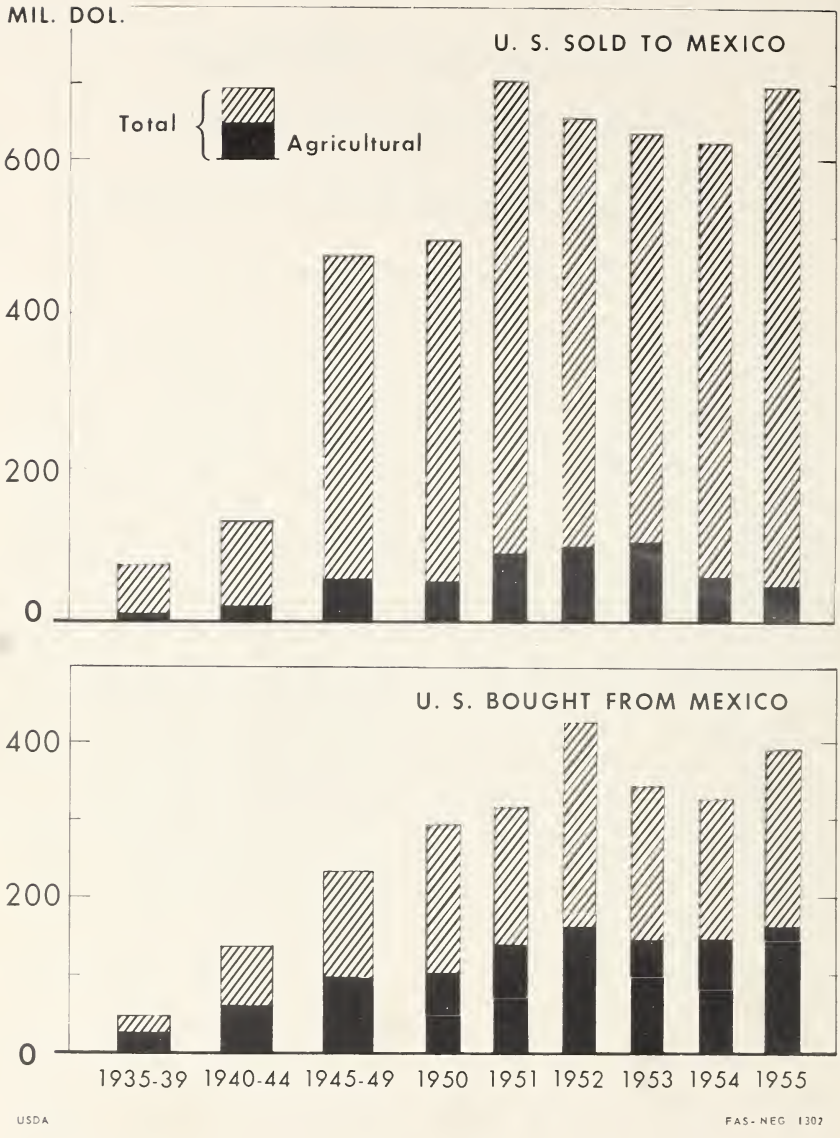
U. S. - Mexican trade



Production of agricultural commodities in Mexico has been encouraged by government subsidy, improved credit facilities, inauguration of an extension service, and provision of irrigation and drainage works. All of these services have been made possible because of the increasing number of trained technicians that Mexico now has, and the assistance the country has received from outside technicians, particularly those of the Rockefeller Foundation. In order to allow domestic production to expand without com-

petition from commodities from other areas, the Mexican Government has increased import duties to extremely high (sometimes prohibitive) levels, required import permits that are difficult to obtain, and resorted to purchase of many food items exclusively by the government corporation CEIMSA (Compañía Exportadora e Importadora Mexicana, S. A.).

A region of Mexico that promises much for the future, both in terms of produce for local use and for an expanding foreign trade, is the tropical southeast. Good soils and abundant water now produce coffee, cacao, pineapples, and bananas for the North American market; and the area is suited for growing rubber, tea, spices, vanilla, and fibers that complement the agriculture of the United States. Development of the region is just beginning and only the future can tell how far it will go. One of the biggest deterrents to agricultural expansion in the past has been the recurrent floods and the swampy nature of much of the valley floors. Rainfall is abundant during approximately half the year, and one of the principal problems to be solved will be drainage and control of water flow.

The northern part of the country has had quite a different handicap. It has been plagued for many years by continued droughts that have reduced the availability of irrigation water. Again in late 1956 drought resulted in a decline in the volume of water impounded by dams, and supplies of water for irrigation in 1957 are considerably below those of a year earlier.

Mexico as a market

Over the past 10 years Mexico has been the second or third Latin American market for U. S. agricultural exports. There is a definite disposition throughout Mexican official circles, however, to produce at home all raw materials possible and to expand export production. Everywhere people are working to make Mexico self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs, particularly corn, beans, and wheat. This goal is practically a reality. Barring crop failure, the United States will have little market for these commodities, at least during the next few years. It is possible, of course, that as the industrial economy expands (as it is doing rapidly), per capita demand for wheat may exceed the rate of increase in wheat production. The likelihood is that Mexico will continue to restrict imports of all consumer goods over the next few years, largely in favor of Mexican-made products, but partly in favor of imports from Europe and Japan made on a bilateral-agreement or barter basis. On the other hand, Mexico probably will continue to import nonfat dry milk solids from the United States for the next few years, as well as cottonseed for planting, hops, hides and skins, and possibly feedstuffs, until domestic production catches up with demand.

The proportion of agricultural products in the country's total imports declined to 11 percent in 1955 compared with 13 percent in 1954 and 18 percent in 1953. The total value of agricultural imports also declined in 1954 and 1955 below the 1953 level, but both the value and the proportion to total imports increased again in 1956. The composition of the import

TABLE 1.—Selected agricultural commodities: Imports into Mexico and proportion originating in the United States, 1954 and 1955

Commodity	Unit	Total quantity		Quantity from U. S.	
		1954	1955	1954	1955
				Percent	*Percent*
Cattle for breeding	No. head	3,860	11,983	94	96
Dairy products:					
Milk, powdered	1,000 lb	6,358	6,506	30	80
Cheese, all kinds	1,000 lb	838	560	17	20
Eggs and poultry:					
Eggs, fresh	1,000 lb	25,108	15,957	100	100
Eggs, dried	1,000 lb	571	353	70	74
Baby chicks	No. head	4,398	5,663	100	100
Animal fats:					
Lard	1,000 lb	22,754	10,847	100	100
Other fats [1]	1,000 lb	63,656	50,739	98	96
Other livestock products:					
Hides and skins [2]	1,000 lb	10,273	36,420	100	99
Wool	1,000 lb	12,253	13,867	7	3
Grains:					
Wheat	1,000 bu	2,287	351	100	100
Corn	1,000 bu	5,696	35	94	100
Barley	1,000 bu	617	351	98	100
Malt	1,000 bu	703	462	100	99
Oats, hulled	1,000 bu	147	174	96	100
Feedstuffs	1,000 lb	13,203	44,667	77	90
Beans	1,000 lb	29,035	4,145	64	100
Fruits, fresh:					
Apples	1,000 lb	3,355	112	100	100
Pears	1,000 lb	661	51	100	100
Grapes	1,000 lb	1,821	108	100	100
Fruits, dried	1,000 lb	3,871	3,140	70	71
Vegetables, fresh:					
Onions	1,000 lb	2,778	6,812	100	100
Potatoes	1,000 lb	295	761	100	91
Tomatoes	1,000 lb	9,231	3,435	100	100
Other	1,000 lb	4,791	5,928	92	95
Hops	1,000 lb	2,114	2,833	99	98
Cottonseed	1,000 lb	13,856	23,609	100	100
Tobacco	1,000 lb	6,365	3,058	100	93
Total agricultural imports	Mil. dol	84.7	84.5	.....	.....

[1] Mostly tallow.
[2] Untanned only.
Note: Data do not include free port entries.

trade has changed drastically during the past 2 years also. In 1953 the leading imports were food products—corn, wheat, and beans. In 1955 the leading imports from the point of view of value were raw materials for industrial use—rubber, wool, lumber, and hides and skins. This is an indication of the country's increasing self-sufficiency with respect to food and its rapid industrial development.

The United States supplies practically all of the food products imported

by Mexico and about 80 percent of its total agricultural imports. During the past 2 years, for example, the United States supplied 94 to 100 percent of all grain imports, breeding cattle, animal fats, and untanned hides and skins; 100 percent of the fresh fruits and fresh eggs; and almost 100 percent of the tobacco and hops. The only commodities imported from other coun-

TABLE 2.—Selected agricultural commodities: Exports from Mexico and proportion exported to the United States, 1954 and 1955

Commodity	Unit	1954	1955	Quantity to U. S.	
				1954	1955
				Percent	*Percent*
Animals and animal products:					
Cattle	No. head	4,645	243,434	[1] 0	99
Beef, fresh and frozen	1,000 lb	29,705	18,744	81	74
Honey	1,000 lb	19,955	17,776	42	43
Fibers:					
Cotton	1,000 lb	571,915	776,976	[2] 71	[2] 69
Henequen fiber	1,000 lb	61,270	46,795	92	98
Henequen waste	1,000 lb	3,199	6,812	99	100
Coffee	1,000 lb	152,201	184,009	90	88
Cacao	1,000 lb	6,442	11,054	100	100
Grains:					
Corn	1,000 bu	([3])	2,308	2	58
Oats	1,000 bu	396	310	100	100
Sorghum, whole	1,000 bu	0	442	0	100
Pulses:					
Chickpeas	1,000 lb	14,469	42,454	37	4
Beans	1,000 lb	553	20,441	100	50
Vegetables:					
Tomatoes	1,000 lb	182,640	108,583	100	100
Peppers, dried	1,000 lb	1,911	3,620	98	99
Onions	1,000 lb	14,288	10,752	97	100
Garlic	1,000 lb	12,868	11,135	87	83
Fruits:					
Bananas	1,000 stems	2,739	1,812	100	100
Pineapples, fresh	1,000 lb	48,528	47,994	100	100
Pineapples, canned	1,000 lb	30,009	26,647	47	56
Strawberries, frozen	1,000 lb	9,773	13,441	100	100
Melons	1,000 lb	33,852	44,742	100	100
Watermelons	1,000 lb	11,557	28,298	100	100
Oranges	1,000 lb	13,765	32,064	[2] 64	[2] 69
Peanuts, shelled	1,000 lb	32,123	43,777	6	53
Peanuts, unshelled	1,000 lb	9,317	8,750	6	15
Feeds:					
Cottonseed, cake and meal	1,000 lb	357,047	374,447	87	75
Other feeds	1,000 lb	132,159	122,159	99	72
Sugar, refined	1,000 lb	146,101	161,203	[2] 67	[2] 69
Molasses	1,000 gal	42,423	45,639	100	100
Vanilla	1,000 lb	295	249	98	100
Total agricultural exports	Mil. dol	262.6	360.2	.....	.....

[1] The U. S. border was closed to imports of Mexican cattle from May 23, 1953, to Jan. 1, 1955.
[2] Mostly for transshipment.
[3] Less than 500 bushels.

tries to the extent of more than 25 percent during 1956 were cheese, dried eggs, wool, olive oil, dried fish, dried fruits other than raisins and prunes, seed potatoes, unspecified seeds, bulbs, and dairy cattle.

For most commodities, except cotton, the United States is the principal market for Mexican exports. In 1956, for example, the United States took 56 percent of total exports, or goods valued at $479 million providing exchange to pay for the items Mexico needed from abroad. The United States was the market for almost all the cattle, henequen fiber, cacao, winter vegetables, fresh fruits (with the exception of oranges), molasses, vanilla, chicle, and shrimp exported by Mexico. It also purchased 85 percent of the coffee, 84 percent of the garlic, 81 percent of the vegetable wax, 79 percent of the cottonseed cake and meal, 60 percent of the beef, 54 percent of the broomroot, 53 percent of the canned pineapple, and 20 percent of the shelled peanuts.

Mexico as a competitor

Larger Mexican production competes with the United States not only in supplying its own domestic market but also in third markets around the world. The most spectacular increases recently have been in cotton and wheat in the north and west of Mexico on land newly irrigated under the country's irrigation program. Not only do these areas compete in wheat and cotton, but they are the winter vegetable exporters and the range cattle producers that furnish supplementary imports into the United States. Provision of water for the arid lands in these regions is the primary stimulus to expansion. Insofar as wheat is concerned, the development of improved varieties, government subsidies, and restrictions on imports have accelerated the production response. Cotton is now the country's leading export crop, representing about one-quarter of the total export value in 1955. Mexico will probably continue its active competition in third markets for cotton exports and supply the domestic market for wheat that formerly was imported from the United States.

Although production of most crops is increasing steadily throughout the Central Plateau, that region probably will not contribute significantly to the exportation of competing commodities over the next few years. Development in the southeastern part of the country is expanding, but not at the pace in the north and west. Production of sugar and rice is increasing in the Papaloapan Basin (comprising parts of the States of Veracruz, Puebla, and Oaxaca) as a result of better transportation, flood control, and resettlement efforts. If this trend in sugar output continues, it will add to the surplus already existing in the world market. If present plans to grow more rice for the export market materialize, the United States may meet with competition for rice exports in third markets. Too, the Papaloapan Commission is interested in developing a better quality tobacco. The varieties produced there are largely dark leaf, and the quantities will be small, at least for the immediate future. Experimentation by the commission with

sesame and peanuts may develop export possibilities for these crops from this basin.

Presently the United States takes from Mexico several commodities that provide competition with United States products in certain areas. They include winter vegetables, primarily tomatoes; frozen strawberries; peanuts; and beef. Although land and labor are available for the increase of vegetable and strawberry output, production hazards and plant disease problems probably will prevent increased competition during the next few years. For the short run, competition from beef probably will be slight, although over the next 5 to 10 years government efforts in behalf of the livestock industry will result in greatly expanded production. Imports of peanuts into the United States are already under quota, and there is little likelihood that production for export as peanuts will be encouraged, although production for diversion to oil may be expanded.

Prospects are for the continued development of the irrigated valleys and plains in the north and west, but emphasis between crops competing for the same land may be shifted considerably, depending upon the relative profits. By and large the densely settled Central Plateau, where progress is less spectacular but steadily growing, may be characterized as "Old Mexico" with its corn and bean economy; the north and west is the area presently booming with new-found prosperity; and the southeast may well be the land of tomorrow, where the groundwork for the future is just now being laid.

What affects marketing and competition

A number of common factors have reduced the prospects for immediate increase in markets for several of our agricultural products, increased the degree of competition from Mexican products in other countries, and laid the foundation for a possible expansion in future sales in Mexico.

The physical features of the country are such that a wide variety of foods and fibers can be grown as well as numerous rare and exotic products. Lack of sufficient moisture in many places and poor distribution of rainfall, however, combine to provide one of the major problems of the Mexican farmer and have led to construction of irrigation facilities not only in the dry north but in several semiarid areas as well. A rapidly growing population, estimated to reach 3 percent per year, highly concentrated in the Central Plateau region, requires ever-increasing quantities of consumer goods. Government policies originating some years past have resulted in action in the field of land reform, provision of credit facilities, tariff protection, stimulation of production through subsidies and price guarantees, encouragement for improving techniques, and provision of other services designed to provide this increasing population with food and clothing. Strict trade regulation has been a part of government policy, particularly in recent years,

resulting in direct government importation of the principal agricultural commodities.

Physical factors

Perhaps the best-known area of Mexico is the Central Plateau, where most of the people live. The plateau reaches an elevation of about 7,000 feet in the south, sloping toward the north to the Mesa del Norte. Two mountain ranges form the east and west borders of the plateau. Between the mountains and the sea on either side are narrow coastal plains. Another highland region lies south of the Central Plateau. The most extensive lowland area is the Peninsula of Yucatán. The northern plain is a continuation of the western plains of the United States.

In common with other countries of the Tropics and subtropics, Mexico's temperature is determined largely by altitude. The range of temperature throughout the year is great in northern Mexico, while in the higher altitudes of the Central Plateau it is relatively uniform. Rainfall varies widely from one region to another and from one season to another. On the Sonora Desert, for example, annual rainfall averages only 2 inches, and in the tropical lowlands, 185 inches. The whole north-central and northeastern part of Mexico receives little rain, as does the northern tip of the Yucatán Peninsula. Rainfall is adequate at all seasons in portions of the peninsula and along the east coast. The southern part of the Central Plateau receives from 20 to 25 inches of rain during the rainy season, but moisture is inadequate during the rest of the year.

The soil forms in large areas of Mexico have been influenced by the dry

climate and in many places the soil is too poor for cultivation. Other areas, particularly in the Central Plateau, are fertile and capable of good production when irrigated.

The topography, climate, and soil have all played a part in determining where the different crops are grown. Probably the principal natural handicap to agriculture is the lack of adequate rainfall. Until recently when irrigation modified the pattern, the Central Plateau was the food and grain growing section. The Yucatán Peninsula is noted for its henequen, the southeast is the important sugar area, coffee grows on the hillsides of Veracruz and Chiapas, and the tropical south produces bananas, cacao, and spices.

Estimates of the potential for expanded agricultural output vary, but in all probability the physical facilities are adequate for an increased production. According to the 1950 census about 10 percent of the total land area is tillable and of this about half lies fallow. About 80 percent of the tillable area has inadequate moisture, indicating the importance of increasing irrigation facilities.

Irrigation

Irrigation has long been practiced in Mexico because of the arid climate in many parts of the country. The principal impetus for the development of irrigation facilities, however, was the establishment of a National Irrigation Commission in 1926.

Since that time the area benefited by irrigation has increased steadily and in 1955 the total receiving supplementary water reached 7.5 million acres,

TABLE 3.—Land classification and use in Mexico, 1950

Item	Acreage	Distribution
	Million acres	*Percent*
Total area	485. 5	100. 0
Land in farms	360. 0	74. 2
Tillable	49. 4	10. 2
Classification of tillable area:		
Humid	1. 7	3. 4
Irrigated	6. 0	12. 2
Arid	39. 7	80. 4
Orchards, agave	2. 0	4. 0
Total	49. 4	100. 0
Use of tillable area:		
Harvested cultivated crops	21. 3	43. 2
Orchards and agave	2. 0	4. 0
Crop failure	3. 6	7. 2
Cultivated total	26. 9	54. 4
Fallow	22. 5	45. 6
Total	49. 4	100. 0

including private as well as Federal projects. Officials estimate that from 17 million to 18 million acres could be irrigated eventually. This would be about 2½ times the present irrigated area, or about equal to the total harvested area in 1950.

In the interval since 1926 government participation in the construction and maintenance of irrigation works has expanded greatly and a new cabinet position was set up to handle this work—the Ministry of Hydraulic Resources.

The principal projects are in the north and west, the Yaqui Valley leading with almost 550,000 acres, followed by the Bajo Río Bravo with just under 500,000 acres. The newest project that has added substantial areas to the agricultural lands of the north and west is the Fuerte Valley development in the State of Sinaloa, where 568,000 acres of land will be irrigated in 1957–58. During the crop year 1955–56, 173,000 acres in this valley were irrigated from the Miguel Hidalgo Dam completed in 1955, and expectations are that during the coming year a total of 494,000 acres will have been cleared and planted. Of the 173,000 acres irrigated last season, almost 30 percent was in wheat, more than a fifth in cotton, another fifth in sugarcane, and the balance divided among chickpeas, beans, tomatoes, corn, alfalfa, and chilies. Population in this valley has just about doubled in the past 3 years, part of the immigration coming from the northern States but much of it from the Central Plateau. Two railroads cross the valley, one going to the United States border; and plans are made to extend one of the railroads to the town of Topolobampo, which is to be developed as a port. Work is pro-

gressing on a highway that will bisect the valley and give it highway transportation to the sea and a connection with the north-south highway to Nogales.

The Yaqui and Mayo Valleys in the State of Sonora have been opened up to cultivation for a somewhat longer time. All the land in the Yaqui is now cleared, for example, and irrigation is provided to 544,000 acres by the Alvaro Obregón Dam. In the Mayo Valley, irrigation from the Mocuzari Dam benefits 198,000 acres and from wells another 37,000 acres. The principal district irrigated by wells in the State of Sonora is the Hermosillo coast, where 188,000 acres are watered. For the State as a whole some 911,000 acres are irrigated by gravity and an additional 437,000 by wells; only 74,000 acres are cultivated without irrigation.

One of the first irrigation projects was in the Laguna, the limits of which approximate the flood plain of the Nazas River, comprising part of the States of Coahuila and Durango. The first emphasis was on cotton production, and the region led all others in production of this crop until the late 1940's.

Drought conditions throughout the north and northwest have caused serious shortages of water for irrigation from time to time. In late 1956 the most serious declines in the level of water stored were in the Falcón and Marte R. Gómez Dams in Tamaulipas, Lázaro Cárdenas Dam in the Laguna District, Boulder Dam supplying Mexicali, Boquilla Dam in Chihuahua, and Alvaro Obregón Dam in Sonora. The only northern State with an increase in the total water stored by dams is Sinaloa, as a result of the recent completion of Miguel Hidalgo Dam. In fact, it is reported that the supply of water for this dam is sufficient to irrigate more land than is available in the El Fuerte Valley.

Not only have irrigation projects benefited the northern areas but they have been inaugurated in the Central Plateau to supply supplementary water.

In the south and east, too, large-scale projects are in operation or are planned, many of them to aid in drainage as well as to supply water in the dry season. Several of these undertakings are under the direction of executive commissions that are charged with the entire development of a region, including irrigation, sanitation, drainage, and communications. Two such commissions in the southeast are the Papaloapan, comprising parts of the States of Veracruz, Puebla, and Oaxaca; and the Grijalva, covering the Grijalva and Usumacinta Valleys of the States of Tabasco and Chiapas. The area drained by the Papaloapan River and its tributaries covers 17,600 square miles, about 50 percent of which is in the State of Oaxaca, almost 39 percent in Veracruz, and the rest in Puebla. The Grijalva and Usumacinta Basin is larger, taking in most of the Isthmus region. The potential importance of the two basins in the Mexican economy can be judged from the fact that the annual volume of flow in the rivers of the two systems represents one-third of the flow in all the rivers of Mexico, and possibly more than a third of the estimated hydroelectric potential of the country. It is estimated that

2.5 million acres of land could be made useful for agricultural purposes in each of these basins.

The government is still appropriating large sums for irrigation development. The 1957 budget includes an increase over that of the previous year for this purpose. The principal projects in process are the further development of the Fuerte Valley, the Papaloapan Valley in Veracruz and Oaxaca, the Tepalcatepec Valley in Michoacán, the Grijalva Valley in Tabasco, and the Santiago-Lerma-Chapala district in the States of Mexico, Guanajuato, Michoacán, Jalisco, and Nayarit. It is reported that in addition to the $28 million spent on the above programs, $18 million will be spent on large projects in the States of Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas, Nayarit, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Oaxaca, and Chiapas, and approximately $8 million on smaller irrigation projects.

Cotton and wheat are the most important irrigated crops. Others relying heavily on irrigation are sugarcane, rice, alfalfa, winter vegetables, flax, tobacco, and onions.

Government policies

Mexico's agricultural policies include land reform and redistribution, provision of irrigation facilities, and measures to increase the degree of self-sufficiency and to control prices.

Following the Revolution of 1910 one of the first of the new government's policies was to provide more land for the peasants. This took the form of land redistribution to ejidos, or village organizations. In some cases each ejidatario (villager) receives a plot of ground, chosen by lot, which cannot be mortgaged or sold. In other cases the ejido is farmed by organized collective labor. By 1950 the ejidos held about one-half of all cultivated land in the country, but only about 27 percent of total farm properties, since most of the pasture, forest, and unproductive land was in non-ejidal holdings.

The average holding of the ejidatarios is 45 acres, of which 10 are cultivated. Many of the holdings, of course, are much smaller than the average. This small size of plot has constituted a serious handicap to progressive farming methods. The small plots provide only a subsistence for the family. Another problem has been the insecurity to private landowners because of the possibility of seizure of their lands. Legislation in 1949–50 attempted to meet some of these problems by giving additional protection to private landowners and increasing the size of the individual grant of land in ejidos. From 1915 to the middle of 1955, 90,722,000 acres were distributed, about half of which was in pastures. Efforts have also been made in recent years to move people from the overpopulated regions into the new irrigation districts. This is done under colonization projects in an effort to overcome some of the problems arising from the scarcity of land to supply parcels to petitioning ejidos.

The problem of providing agricultural credit was also attacked by the government, and in 1926 the whole agricultural credit structure was

TABLE 4.—Agricultural and livestock loans: Estimated total, selected years, 1947, 1950, and 1955

Source of credit	Constant 1947 prices		
	1947	1950	1955
	Mil. dol.	*Mil. dol.*	*Mil. dol.*
Government banks	54	59	111
Private banks	32	56	102
Private firms and individuals	22	54	103
Total	108	169	316

Source: Boletín de Estudios Especiales, Banco Nacional de Crédito Ejidal, S. A.

strengthened by the creation of the Banco Nacional de Crédito Agrícola, S. A. In 1931 a new law set up a system to provide credit to small farmers and ejidatarios, and in late 1935 the Banco Nacional de Crédito Ejidal, S. A. was established. Credit is also granted for farm operations by the National Bank for Foreign Commerce. These three government banks have increased their loans by more than three times between 1947 and 1955 (at current prices). When these credits are deflated to 1947 prices, they show an increase of 88 percent in the total volume of credit granted in 1955 compared with 1950 and a rise of 6 percent compared with 1954. Private banks, other lending organizations, and private firms and individuals also provide large amounts of credit for agriculture. These have increased more rapidly than loans of the government banks. A rough approximation of the total volume of credits granted for agricultural and livestock use made by Ing. Fernández y Fernández shows that loans by government banks in 1947 represented half of all such loans, whereas in 1950 and 1955 they were only 35 percent of the total.

Much of the production credit goes for cotton, wheat, corn, and beans. Other products also receive large amounts of credit, frequently through producers' or processing organizations. Too, local credit unions play an important role in some regions, and United States companies that purchase cotton and winter vegetables advance credit to producers of these products. Interest rates vary, but, counting service charges, they are reported to reach 25 percent and higher in some areas.

To further its goal to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency, however, the government went further than land reform, provision of irrigation water, and credit; it established procedures to guarantee prices to farmers. The Comité Regulador del Mercado de las Subsistencias was established in 1938 and authorized to buy, sell, and store corn, wheat, rice, and beans to maintain a minimum price for producers and a maximum price for consumers. In 1941 the functions of the committee were turned over to a new government corporation called Nacional Distribuidora y Reguladora, S. A. de C. V.

Inflation and increasing consumption were too much for the new agency; and possibly habitually late announcements of support prices and farmers' beliefs that prices were too low helped as well. In 1949 this agency was liquidated, and its functions were taken over by CEIMSA (Compañía Exportadora e Importadora Mexicana, S. A.).

This agency, still operating, has as its objective the maintenance of adequate supplies of basic foods. It is authorized to buy and sell in the local market, import and export, transport and store, and pay subsidies on agricultural products.

CEIMSA has become the sole importer of basic food items. To provide food to consumers at the lowest possible price, it also operates about 300 retail stores to help maintain the ceiling prices that have been established on many basic foods. The stores carry flour, milk, lard, sugar, vegetable oils, beans, and eggs. It supports the farm price of corn and beans throughout the country.

Other measures that have been helpful in expanding output of agricultural items are the improved seed program of the Office of Special Studies of the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, increased mechanization and use of fertilizer, the establishment of an extension service, and provision of crop insurance.

The Office of Special Studies, in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation, has set up four main stations throughout Mexico to develop and test varieties of crops and livestock suited to the different areas of the country. The principal station is located at Chapingo, just outside Mexico City, to cover the Central Plain and provide information for elevations of 6,500 to 9,000 feet. There is a center at La Cal Grande, Guanajuato, for the Bajío—elevations from 3,900 to 6,000 feet; one at Cotaxtla, Veracruz, for tropical zones—elevations from 0 to 3,300 feet; and one at Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, to cover the Pacific Northwest—elevations from 0 to 3,300 feet.

With the four research centers officials hope to develop techniques and plant materials suitable for most of the country. The Office is also cooperating with the agricultural school at Saltillo, the Agronomy Department of the Instituto Technológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, and the National Corn Commission. The new techniques and varieties are being demonstrated on individual farms in cooperation with the newly established extension service.

This service started with 40 extension workers and now has a staff of 240. Its work is primarily to help farmers increase their yields of basic foods—corn, wheat, and beans. Although most of the work done so far has been with crops, a start has been made in promoting improved livestock production. The use of demonstration plots has been particularly effective in teaching farmers the benefits of improved techniques, and the service already has been an important factor in raising yields in many districts.

Another development of great assistance to farmers is the establishment of a crop insurance system in May 1955 that insures against all risks, in-

cluding hail, drought, floods, hurricanes, fire, frost, diseases, and pests. Associations of farmers, called mutualidades, operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, are in all States except Guerrero, Yucatán, Campeche, and Quintana Roo. The semi-governmental banks now require insurance as a prerequisite for the granting of loans. Insurance is available, however, to farmers receiving credit from other sources. In July of 1956 a decree was published providing that if premiums are insufficient to cover payments under the plan the two banks will pay the deficit. By eliminating many of the risks of farming, this system of insurance is expected to result in an increase in credit available to farmers and in a reduction in the present high rates of interest.

TABLE 5.—Principal agricultural imports: Mexican import duties as of February 1957

Commodity	Specific per kilo	Ad valorem		Total per kilo	Equivalent per pound
		Percent	Official price		
	Pesos	*Percent*	*Pesos*	*Pesos*	*Cents*
Wheat	0.06	20	1.00	0.26	0.94
Corn	0	1	.90	.01	.03
Barley	.10	12	1.10	.23	.84
Barley, malt	.30	25	1.80	.75	2.72
Beans	.05	10	1.80	.23	.84
Potatoes	.03	10	1.20	.15	.54
Onions	.02	10	1.30	.15	.54
Apples	.60	75	3.80	3.45	12.52
Pears	.60	75	3.20	3.00	10.88
Peaches	.25	40	3.50	1.65	6.00
Grapes	.50	65	2.80	2.32	8.42
Oranges	.60	75	1.30	1.58	5.72
Raisins	.50	65	4.20	3.23	11.72
Prunes	.50	65	5.90	4.34	15.74
Fruit, canned	2.00	100	3.30	5.30	19.30
Tomatoes, canned	.60	60	5.40	3.84	13.93
Vegetables, canned, n. s	.70	35	3.30	1.86	7.74
Cottonseed	.10	13	2.70	.45	1.64
Tobacco, Virginia	.60	25	20.60	5.75	20.87
Tobacco, cigarette, n. s	1.00	25	12.40	4.10	14.88
Vegetable oil, cotton [1]	.05	5	5.00	.30	1.09
Vegetable oil, soya	.05	40	6.30	2.57	9.32
Lard, tank	.25	35	6.30	2.46	8.92
Tallow, tank	.10	5	4.40	.32	1.16
Milk, powdered, skim [2]	.40	15	5.60	1.24	4.50
Eggs, shell	.20	25	5.50	1.58	5.72
Eggs, powdered	.50	15	10.50	2.08	7.54
Cheese	2.00	50	14.00	9.00	32.67
Meat, beef [3]	.10	13	37.96	5.03	18.25
Meat, ham	1.00	40	17.00	7.80	28.30
Meat, poultry	.10	10	10.40	1.14	4.15
Baby chicks [4]	.10	5	2.30	.22	.78
Cattle, breeding	0	0	.....	0	0

[1] In containers of 50 kilos; greater than 50 kilos, exempt from duty.
[2] In containers over 5 kilos.
[3] The average price for the first half of 1956.
[4] Baby chicks, per head. Free of duty from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.

In its drive toward self-sufficiency, the government found it necessary to establish trade controls as well as production incentives and price controls. Mexico has avoided foreign exchange control, and the peso is freely convertible into dollars at 12.5 pesos to the dollar. This rate has obtained since April 19, 1954, when the peso was devalued to the present rate from 8.65 to the dollar.

In general the government seeks to restrict imports through high duties and a strict licensing system, and to encourage exports through reductions in export taxes, extension of credit, and barter arrangements. Exports are also subject to control to regulate supplies and prices within the country. Important agricultural commodities subject to import permit from the Ministry of Economy are powdered milk, wheat, fresh fruits, hides and skins, wool, and most fats and oils. The principal products subject to export permit include cattle, sheep, meat, eggs, hides and skins, wool, beans, potatoes, rice, oats, barley, corn, cacao, coffee, oilseed cakes and meals, unginned cotton, fibers, oilseeds, sugar, molasses, vegetable oils, and animal fats.

Both import and export duty rates have been increased from time to time. The duty is made up of a combination of specific and ad valorem rates, the ad valorem portion being based on the invoice value or on an official (or arbitrary) value, whichever is the higher. The official value is subject to change by the Ministry of Finance and can be raised or lowered in response to change in market price. The National Bank of Foreign Commerce has responsibility for studying the possibilities of barter transactions and in carrying them to conclusion. These usually have as their objective encouragement of exports, as in the case of cotton. The bank has also expressed an interest in bartering henequen manufactures, piloncillo (noncentrifugal sugar), canned pineapple, chickpeas, rum, and cotton textiles, among others. The bank, in cooperation with other government agencies, also arranges some bilateral trade agreements, especially with soft currency countries and for products for which the export market is depressed.

CEIMSA plays an important role in trade policies also. This agency, which exclusively handles imports of certain basic food commodities, is exempt from the payment of import duties. Imports are increased when prices rise and decreased or suspended when the price level is considered satisfactory. This agency also handles the exportation of certain products.

Largely because of difficult transportation between Mexico's producing areas and border and port cities, certain areas have been designated as free zones or perimeters. Free zones are Baja California and the northern tip of the State of Sonora. Free perimeters include Nogales and Agua Prieta in Sonora, and Chetumal, Cozumel, Xcalak, and Isla de Mujeres in Quintana Roo. Many items may be imported into these areas, although the Ministry of Finance is authorized to determine which items may be so imported. From time to time certain items are declared subject to the regular duty even when entering these zones and perimeters.

Mexico is not a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

and has had no bilateral trade agreement with the United States since 1951. It is a member of two international commodity agreements, one for wheat and one for sugar.

Mexico as a market

Mexico takes more of total United States exports than does any other Latin American country, and has held this lead for many years. So far as agriculture is concerned Mexico has ranked second or third in importance, behind Cuba and sometimes Venezuela. On a worldwide basis it is included in the first 15 markets for agricultural exports. In 1953, the year when agricultural exports to Mexico reached their peak of $103.2 million, it tied Italy for eighth place in the world, but in the fiscal year 1955–56 it dropped to thirteenth place.

For certain commodities, however, Mexico has been a much more important outlet than these figures indicate. It is the first world market for cottonseed and hops and in most years for shell eggs, and is an important market for lard and tallow.

During the first semester of 1956, exports to Mexico increased again. This increase was accounted for largely by expanded wheat sales under a barter arrangement and is not expected to be maintained. There was a sharp decline in exports of lard and cottonseed, but Mexico was the second world market for shell eggs following Venezuela. Fiscal year values of agricultural trade on a country basis for 1954–55 and 1955–56 show a rise from $44.4 million to $64.2 million between the two years in United States exports to Mexico.

Declines from the peak year exports of United States farm products to Mexico are accounted for by Mexico's drive toward self-sufficiency, particularly of foodstuffs, some competition from other countries, notably for dairy products, and recovery from severe drought conditions existing in 1953. For the past 10 to 15 years, during which the Mexican Government has been trying to attain self-sufficiency in its production of agricultural products, the trend of output has been rising steadily. But, until the past 2 years, increasing population and per capita consumption absorbed the new production as well as higher quantities of imports. Further expansion in production was held back by lack of water in many parts of Mexico, few trained technicians, primitive methods of cultivation, farming of wornout soils, and lack of improved seeds.

Over the years, wheat has been the principal agricultural import into Mexico. The place of the other commodities in the import picture has varied with production in Mexico and reflects, in recent years, government policies to restrict imports whenever possible. Imports have included corn and beans in years of insufficient output at home, animal fats, both edible and inedible, dairy products, hides and skins, hops and malt, cottonseed, tobacco, eggs and poultry, breeding stock, fruits and vegetables, both fresh and canned.

TABLE 6.—Principal agricultural products: Quantity and value of U. S. exports to Mexico, fiscal 1955–56

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	Value
		Thousands	*1,000 dollars*
Cattle, live	No.	18	3,051
Milk, evaporated, unsweetened	Lb.	16,065	2,272
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	9,930	1,019
Other dairy products		(1)	931
Cattle hides	No.	825	4,764
Other hides and skins [2]	No.	247	617
Eggs, in the shell	Doz.	15,698	5,002
Other animals and animal products (incl. live poultry and baby chicks).		(1)	3,630
Meats	Lb.	9,682	1,449
Lard, including shortenings	Lb.	16,728	2,131
Tallow, edible	Lb.	11,370	1,191
Tallow, inedible	Lb.	54,356	4,493
Other animal oils and fats	Lb.	1,719	233
Fruits and preparations		(1)	1,783
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	687	1,099
Barley, malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	625	1,353
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	1,818	3,406
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	4,025	7,183
Other grains and preparations		(1)	1,095
Feeds and fodders		(1)	2,687
Hops	Lb.	2,730	1,458
Cottonseed	Lb.	19,855	1,728
Oils and fats, vegetable, expressed	Lb.	5,225	803
Essential oils	Lb.	218	620
Seeds, except oilseeds	Lb.	3,852	1,061
Tobacco, unmanufactured	Lb.	3,247	2,287
Beans, dry, ripe	Lb.	27,039	1,753
Other vegetables and preparations		(1)	2,111
Other agricultural products		(1)	2,940
Total			64,150

[1] Reported in value only.
[2] Excludes the number of "other hides and skins," reported in value only.

The exports of United States agricultural commodities are paid for by the products Mexico sends to us—agricultural, mineral, and other—by the large volume of tourists' expenditures, and by return to Mexico of part of the wages paid to braceros—Mexican laborers working in the United States. The total value of agricultural imports into the United States from Mexico in 1955–56 was $131 million, of which coffee accounted for 60 percent. Other imported items were cattle, tomatoes, and fruits. Imports of Mexican products show an upward trend, led by coffee. Total balance of trade from the Mexican point of view is still unfavorable, but a balance of payments is almost assured by receipts from tourists and other income.

At the end of 1956 Mexico apparently had the highest exchange reserves in its history. On the whole, economic conditions are good. Except for the northern area where water supply is again a problem, harvests were excellent and business good. New investment is taking place, and the gross

TABLE 7.—Principal agricultural products: Quantity and value of U. S. imports from Mexico, fiscal 1955–56

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	Value
			1,000
Complementary:		*Thousands*	*dollars*
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb	4,619	1,298
Coffee, raw	Lb	136,976	79,669
Drugs, herbs, roots, etc		(1)	3,208
Bananas	Bunch	947	766
Oils, essential		(1)	401
Vanilla beans	Lb	168	1,258
Other spices	Lb	992	234
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	6	846
Other vegetable fibers (2,240 lb.)	Ton	2	401
Other complementary			44
Supplementary:			
Cattle, dutiable	No	78	4,318
Beef, fresh, chilled or frozen	Lb	6,256	1,504
Cotton, unmfd. (excl. linters) [2]	Lb	10,332	3,216
Linters [2]	Lb	66,912	3,046
Pineapples, canned or prepared	Lb	13,400	1,664
Cantaloups	Lb	51,873	2,620
Berries, frozen	Lb	10,030	1,436
Other fruits and preparations		(1)	1,142
Cottonseed oilcake and meal	Lb	95,580	2,411
Candelilla wax	Lb	4,123	1,962
Peanuts, shelled	Lb	10,632	1,609
Sugar, cane	Lb	26,635	1,558
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal	33,560	2,190
Tomatoes, natural	Lb	56,658	4,501
Other vegetables and preparations		(1)	1,773
Other supplementary			7,869
Total			130,944

[1] Reported in value only.
[2] Largely for reexport.

national product ascending at an impressive rate. Estimates place the GNP for 1956 at 7 percent above the 84 billion peso figure of 1955 ($6.7 million). Industry is expanding at an accelerating rate, stimulated by government aids, tariff protection, tax exemptions, and credit policies.

In spite of the generally favorable situation in the country, the purchasing power of the people remains low, transportation is still a limiting factor to growth, and distribution costs are high. The probable reduction in the 1957 cotton crop together with the possibility of somewhat lower prices for coffee may reduce earnings from these two major export crops. Lower export values of these and other commodities could adversely affect imports of raw materials and consumer goods.

Products primarily for domestic use

Since 1941, **wheat** imports have had an important place in the Mexican economy, resulting from a higher rate of increase in consumption than in production.

Left, wheat seed from experimental plots is harvested and packaged at the research center for Mexico's Central Plateau. *Below*, leveling machine prepares land for wheat. Wheat output in Mexico has tripled in the past decade, thanks in large part to research, modern farming practices, and expanded irrigation. In the past few years, Mexico has moved from a large importer of this important food crop to a point of self-sufficiency: In 1950, Mexico bought 15 million bushels of wheat—nearly all from the United States; in 1955, it bought only 351,000 bushels.

A few years ago Mexico imported approximately 15 million bushels of wheat, almost all from the United States, to supply half of its total requirements of this grain. It has now increased its production to the point of self-sufficiency, however, and, unless there is a crop failure or a substantial increase in per capita consumption, the United States cannot expect to sell wheat to Mexico in the future. In 1955 wheat imports were down to 351,000

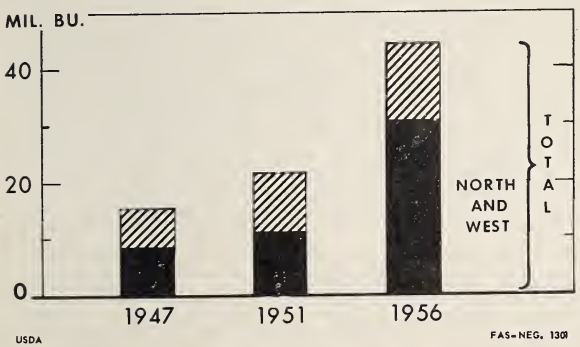
bushels. During early 1956 imports were larger because of a barter arrangement, whereby Mexican fluorspar was exchanged for 3.7 million bushels of United States wheat. Imports under this arrangement were concluded in May 1956, and during the remainder of the year no further wheat imports entered Mexico. All imports of wheat are made by the CEIMSA, and no permits are granted to private importers.

The expansion in output of wheat has followed irrigation construction in the north and west; the use of improved seed varieties, machinery, and fertilizers; and government subsidy.

Wheat is grown on semiarid lands in the northern regions of Sonora; in humid lands in the Central Plateau; and on irrigated lands in the Laguna, the Yaqui and Mayo Valleys of southern Sonora, and in Sinaloa. During the late 1940's the two most important wheat regions were the Bajío in the Central Plateau and the Laguna around the city of Torreón. Today 70 percent of the total wheat harvest is in the northern and western part of the country on irrigated lands, compared with 50 percent some 5 or 6 years ago. Practically all the wheat production in these areas is completely mechanized. In all but the newly opened Fuerte Valley in the State of Sinaloa there has been a great expansion in the use of fertilizers, and in many areas farmers are following crop rotation systems. A few farmers are growing green manure crops to improve their soil.

The government has intervened from time to time to encourage wheat production through subsidy and other controls. As early as 1937 short supplies and high prices resulted in forming the Comité Regulador del Mercado de Trigo, to maintain the price of wheat in the growing regions, accumulate stocks to regulate the market, exempt wheat from import duties, establish trade zones and agencies, and investigate conditions in the trade. Presently, CEIMSA is charged with this responsibility. During the 1955–56 season the price of wheat was supported at a level of $1.99 per bushel.

Mexico's wheat output has tripled in the past decade



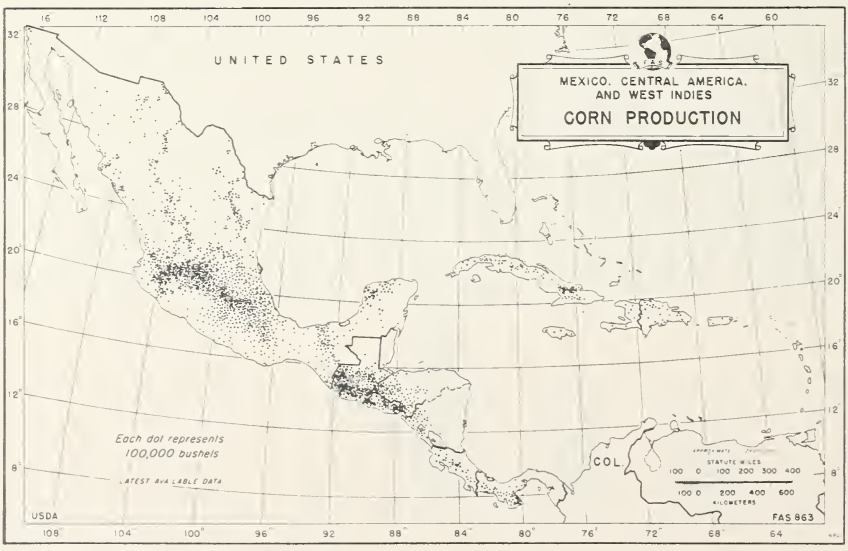
Wheat production in that season was estimated at 44 million bushels, an increase of 40 percent over the record crop of the preceding season and almost three times the harvest of 1947.

Over the next few years there is a possibility of increasing acreage devoted

to wheat through opening of newly irrigated lands, and there is also a possibility that continued improvement in varieties and in cultural practices will result in larger yields per acre. Yields increased from 11.5 bushels per acre in the prewar period to 19.5 bushels in 1955–56. On the other hand, wheat competes with cotton for the irrigated lands, and the relative profitability of the two crops will play an important part in determining acreage planted. At prices and costs obtaining over the past several years, cotton brought a larger return per acre, but during the past season uncertainty with respect to cotton markets resulted in some shifting of land from cotton to wheat. The government's policy of self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, together with strict regulation of imports and guaranteed producer prices for wheat, lends encouragement to expanded wheat output. Prices of wheat in late 1956, however, were considerably reduced below the record levels of late 1955, and in some cases were below the guaranteed price.

A rapidly growing population and a continuing prosperity may call for higher total and per capita food consumption. Should this be accompanied by high cotton prices and diversion of wheat land to cotton, wheat production may not be able to keep pace with the increased demand. In that case or in case of severe droughts that reduce the availability of irrigation water, imports of wheat may again be allowed. As in the past, the probabilities are that Mexico will look to the United States as the principal source of such imports if and when they are needed.

Corn remains the principal food crop in Mexico, supplying half of the total calories in the diet and accounting for almost half the acreage harvested. Production has doubled since 1935–39, but the bulk of the crop still comes from the small farms of the Central Plateau, with Jalisco the major producing State. Production in 1956 is estimated at 173 million bushels,



approximately the same as in 1954. A larger crop had been anticipated but was reduced by drought in the north and frost in the Central Plateau.

Yields are low, although there has been a substantial gain from the 9.4 bushels per acre in the decade 1936–45 to 15.7 bushels in 1956. This increase is largely the result of the work of the Office of Special Studies of the Ministry of Agriculture, through which the Rockefeller Foundation cooperates in developing improved corn varieties and hybrids suitable for all sections of the country. When these are ready for commercial use, the seed is increased and distributed to farmers by the Corn Commission, which is an independent government agency.

The corn work began in 1944 and great success has been achieved in developing new varieties. Estimates indicate, however, that only 15 percent of the total corn acreage is planted with the new seed. It is more difficult to introduce the new seed and improved practices on small subsistence holdings than on the irrigated lands of the north and west where so much success has been obtained with wheat. Experimental plantings, however, show astonishing results in greatly increased yields. Should these be maintained in commercial fields, corn might one day compete with wheat and cotton for irrigated lands in the north and west.

Traditionally, Mexican trade in corn has been small, although in 3 or 4 years severe drought cut output to such levels that large imports were necessary to maintain consumption. From time to time small exports are made. In 1953, imports of corn reached a total of 14 million bushels to push wheat out of first place as the principal import. In 1955, on the other hand, only 35,000 bushels were imported. But in 1956 the total rose to almost 5 million bushels.

Most of the trade in corn is with the United States, although trade reports indicate that in 1956 30 percent of the total was received from South Africa. Carryover was negligible at the beginning of the 1956–57 corn marketing year, and already in January and February 1957 corn supplies were tight. As in similar situations in the past, short supplies led to prohibitions against shipment of corn out of the producing States to the deficit areas. These areas then depended on the CEIMSA to supply their needs, and CEIMSA in turn had to import corn to meet these requirements. It is expected that corn imports in 1957 will greatly exceed those of a year earlier.

All trade in corn is through the CEIMSA. Prices of the imported corn in 1956 were considerably above those CEIMSA had set as ceiling prices within the country. CEIMSA thus suffered losses in subsidizing the consumers of corn. This agency also guarantees minimum producer prices of corn. This guaranteed price was raised in January 1957 and now ranges from $1.24 to $1.32 per bushel. Market prices in early 1957, however, were running about 17 percent higher than the guaranteed figure.

Consumption of corn is increasing at about the same rate as population—about 3 percent per year. During the past year consumption for feed and industrial use has expanded greatly. The rise in the poultry industry has

Mexican workers harvest a new tropical corn hybrid at Santiago, Nayarit. Since corn supplies half the calories in the Mexican diet and most of it comes from the Central Plateau now, a variety that thrives in the hot lowland has obvious advantages. Corn research is moving ahead at several centers. In experimental plantings, yields are greatly increased. If they are maintained in commercial fields, corn might compete some day with wheat and cotton for the irrigated areas of the north and west.

created a demand for mixed feeds. When bad weather cuts production, imports will be made and the probability is that most of these imports will come from the United States. Over the long pull, increased use of better varieties and improved cultural practices, as well as planting of corn on irrigated lands, probably will enable corn output to exceed the rate of population growth.

Other grains of importance in Mexico are rice, barley, and oats. Recently **grain sorghums** have increased in importance. The 1956 crop is estimated at 2.7 million bushels. Sinaloa is the principal producing State, followed by Jalisco, Michoacán, Guanajuato, and Nuevo León. Experimental plant-

Beans are harvested from a plot at the research center, Chapingo. Beans, like corn, are basic fare for most Mexicans; both are important imports only in poor growing years.

ings in the Papaloapan Valley have produced good results. In view of the growing demand for feedstuffs, many people anticipate that grain sorghums will gain in acreage and production over the next few years.

Production of **rice** has fluctuated during the past 7 years from a low of 7 million bushels in 1952 and 1953 to 12 million in 1956. Most of the output is for domestic use, but exports are significant in some years. Although small quantities have been imported, especially for seed, Mexico is not expected to become a market for United States rice. (See page 49.)

Most of Mexico's **barley** is grown for feed, the principal area of production being the Central Plateau, in the States of Hidalgo, Tlaxcala, Mexico, and Puebla. Production of brewer's barley is largely in the northern part of the country. Output is increasing, but imports are needed both for feed and for the growing brewing industry. Census figures in 1950 showed beer to be the second manufacturing industry according to value of production. In 1956, 784,000 bushels of feed barley were imported, more than twice as much as a year earlier; and 674,000 bushels of malt were imported. Imports of barley malt are almost entirely from the United States. It is ex-

pected that malt will continue to be imported and that, in spite of Mexico's desire to diversify its trade, the United States will maintain its place as first supplier.

Another product needed for the growing beer industry is **hops.** Most of the requirements come from imports and these are largely from the United States. The quantity imported in 1956—568,000 pounds—was somewhat less than that of a year earlier.

Production of **oats** is small and is used largely for rolled oats for human consumption and for export. Little is used for feed. The 1956 crop was approximately 2 million bushels—less than half of the preceding year's output, due to a severe drought in Chihuahua, the leading producing State. Mexico usually imports some hulled oats and unhulled oats, and exports unhulled oats. All of this trade is with the United States.

Fats and oils are in deficit supply in Mexico, and imports have made up a significant portion of total consumption in past years. Animal fats have been the principal imports, particularly tallow and lard, although there have been imports also of cottonseed oil, soybean oil, olive oil, palm fat, and other vegetable fats and oils. Except for olive oil, for which Spain is the main source of supply, the United States furnishes most of these imports. Mexico is on an export basis for peanuts, and in some years for linseed and other industrial fats and oils.

Approximately two-thirds of the fats and oils consumed in Mexico con-

TABLE 8.—Fats and oils: Supply in Mexico and percent imported, selected years 1949, 1952, and 1956

Kind	1949	1952	1956
Vegetable oils:	*Short tons*	*Short tons*	*Short tons*
Cottonseed	29,561	88,946	150,899
Coconut	31,519	39,683	61,508
Palm nut	6,952	8,201	10,913
Sesame	46,539	42,225	35,331
Peanut	10,262	8,104	3,169
Linseed	1,684	5,288	5,117
Castor	1,343	1,017	1,952
Rapeseed	1,852	1,852	2,469
Olive	648	594	421
Other	220	331	6,784
Total	128,897	196,241	278,563
Animal fat:			
Lard	52,561	48,273	69,448
Tallow and other	35,576	52,096	67,294
Total	88,137	100,369	136,742
All fats	217,034	296,609	415,305
Percent imported	9.3	16.4	13.0

TABLE 9.—Lard and tallow: Production in Mexico, total imports, and imports from the United States, 1950–56

Year	Lard			Tallow and other animal fats		
	Production	Imports [1]		Production	Imports [2]	
		Total	From U. S.		Total	From U. S.
	Short tons	*Short tons*	*Short tons*	*Short tons*	*Short tons*	*Short tons*
1950	43,651	11,916	11,916	28,577	411	371
1951	39,683	15,410	15,410	28,813	11,833	11,771
1952	36,707	15,327	14,736	29,773	21,926	21,880
1953	39,500	15,729	15,729	27,540	27,632	27,512
1954	50,000	12,723	12,686	26,000	30,664	30,619
1955	55,159	7,099	7,098	25,050	23,822	23,682
1956	57,937	7,543	7,543	26,025	36,554	36,456

[1] Includes entries through free ports.
[2] Does not include free port entries, which are either small or nonexistent.

sists of vegetable oils, the principal one being cottonseed oil. Its production has increased with the rise in cotton output, reaching a peak in 1955 of 113,922 short tons. It declined to 102,901 short tons in 1956 and may decline further in 1957. Copra and sesame are the next most important sources of vegetable oils. Production of copra has been increasing in recent years, but sesame seed output has remained stationary or declined slightly. More than half the copra output is in the States of Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Colima, and the remainder largely on the Gulf Coast. More than a third of the sesame is produced in Guerrero and Oaxaca, followed by Sonora, Sinaloa, and Michoacán. The possible decline in cottonseed oil production in 1957 is expected to be offset by increases in other fats and oils, but rising consumption will necessitate some increase in imports of vegetable oils to maintain consumption, possibly a total of 10,300 short tons.

It is in the animal oils and fats, however, that the United States has an important export product. Domestic production has remained relatively constant in recent years, with rising consumption being provided for by imports. All imports of lard are handled by CEIMSA. Trade in tallow has been handled exclusively by the Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior, a semigovernment credit agency, from time to time. Recently, however, it was returned to private trade with the requirement that permits be obtained from the Ministry of Economy. It is reported that permits have been issued for 12,500 metric tons of fats to be imported during the first quarter of 1957. These permits may be used for tallow, cottonseed oil, soybean oil, or palm oil. Estimated imports for all of 1957 include 25,000 tons of inedible tallow, 10,000 tons of edible tallow, and 4,000 tons of lard. These estimates of inedible tallow imports may need to be revised if a new prohibition against

imports of tallow for industrial use (March 29, 1957) is maintained throughout the year.

Mexico continues to import large quantities of cottonseed for planting, all from the United States, and this trade is expected to continue, although possibly on a reduced scale. Imports reached a peak in 1955 of just under 24 million pounds through customs plus 10 million pounds through the free ports. Trade in 1956, however, dropped to one-half this total.

Beans share the spotlight with corn as basic fare for the great mass of the Mexican population. Beans are widely grown throughout the country in the same general areas where corn is found.

Production and trade fluctuate with the ups and downs of the weather, although there has been an upward trend in output over the past two decades. Large imports were needed in 1952 and 1953 to supplement domestic output. Three good crops followed, however, and 1956 found a surplus of 238,000 bags for export. CEIMSA is the sole importer and exporter of beans, and the United States is usually the principal supplier and in some years is the principal market. In other years, however, exports have gone to Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, and elsewhere. Mexico is not expected to be a permanent market for United States beans except in years of drought and crop failure.

Chickpeas, lentils, and **dried peas** are other pulses important to Mexico. About two-thirds of the chickpeas are grown for livestock feed, and exports have been made in significant quantities in most years. For these products, Mexico does not offer prospects for United States exports.

The production of **potatoes** in Mexico during 1956 is estimated at 6.2 million bushels, slightly higher than that of 1955. Foreign trade includes imports of seed potatoes as well as potatoes for food for the Free Zone and northern border areas. In 1955, 312,756 bushels entered the Free Zones and 12,676 bushels were imported through customs. Seed potato imports amounted to 196.000 bushels. Most of this trade was with the United States.

Fresh deciduous fruit, raisins, and prunes have been minor but significant imports from the United States for many years. Imports of fresh fruit have been declining recently, however, because of increased domestic production, high import tariffs, and the imposition of import restrictions on fresh fruits.

The only deciduous fruit that enters the export market is grapes. Export of the fresh fruit have been declining as wine exports have increased. Production of apples in 1956 was about 3 percent greater and that of peaches about 2 percent greater than a year earlier owing to new plantings of apples in Puebla, Durango, and Coahuila, and increase in the commercial peach areas of Querétaro and Guanajuato. Weather conditions were favorable for grapes in all areas except Baja California, and a record crop was harvested. Continued expansion is expected for both table grape and wine grape culture. Other deciduous fruits produced and imported on a limited scale include plums, pears, apricots, and quinces.

The expanding economy of Mexico and the rising standard of living continue to strengthen demand for deciduous fruits, but high duties and import restrictions will limit imports during the next few years. Imports of raisins and prunes have remained relatively steady.

Tobacco production has more than doubled since prewar, but the rate of increase has slowed down considerably in the past few years. Total imports have increased also to meet greater demand, but imports constitute only 6 to 7 percent of tobacco consumption, which was estimated to be more than 75 million pounds in 1955.

Sixty percent or more of the total production is estimated to be bright leaf, which is grown largely in the Tepic region, including the State of Nayarit and part of Jalisco. The dark tobacco is grown in 20 States, the most important being Veracruz. This State and Oaxaca produce two-thirds of the dark tobacco.

About 40 percent of the imports are flue-cured leaf and most of the balance other cigarette leaf, practically all from the United States. Small quantities of wrapper are imported, also largely from the United States in recent years. All cigarette imports are from the United States, too, but they account for only a fraction of 1 percent of total cigarette consumption. Exports are relatively small. Europe is the best market.

Prices of tobacco products are set by the government and remain steady for long periods of time. There was no change, for example, between 1951 and December of 1954 when they were increased by 17 to 26 percent (depending on the product). These latter prices are still in effect.

Import duties are high, and, in the case of cigarettes particularly, quantities imported are controlled by import licenses. It is not expected that there will be much increase in cigarette imports above the present levels, but trade in tobacco leaf may show a small but steady increase.

Poultry and egg imports have reached significant totals in Mexico's

TABLE 10.—Baby chicks and fresh eggs: Imports into Mexico, 1950–56 [1]

Year	Baby chicks through customs	All poultry through free port	Fresh eggs	
			Through customs	Through free port
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1950	1,238	101	467	2,709
1951	1,440	176	7,818	2,795
1952	2,881	33	18,849	4,698
1953	3,293	615	23,038	6,453
1954	4,398	760	25,108	7,061
1955	5,663	[2] 889	15,957	5,553
1956	7,641	[3] 1,332	2,956	8,210

[1] Practically all from the United States.
[2] Includes 400,000 baby chicks.
[3] Includes 558,000 baby chicks.

trade with the United States over the past several years. In 1955 Mexico imported more than 6 million baby chicks, more than double the number taken in 1952. Also in 1955 it imported 21,508,000 pounds of fresh eggs, 353,000 pounds of dried eggs, and 287,000 pounds of egg yolks, including free port entries.

The year 1956 saw a substantial increase in imports of chicks and egg yolks but a sharp reduction in fresh eggs. Most of these imports were from the United States. The 48-percent reduction in fresh egg imports came because CEIMSA, the exclusive purchaser, limited imports of eggs for food. This policy is expected to continue into 1957 and to reduce imports of eggs still further. A new regulation requiring an import permit issued by the Ministry of Economy was inaugurated January 17, 1957, and applies to free zone entries. During 1956 almost three-quarters of all eggs entered through these zones. The import duty of 20 centavos per kilo plus 25 percent ad valorem (assessed on an official price of 5.50 pesos per kilo; equivalent to 5.72 cents per pound) has been sufficiently high to shut off imports by private traders into the interior of the country. CEIMSA is not required to pay the duty on its purchases. Barring severe food shortages or the slowing down of the expansion in the poultry industry, Mexico probably will continue to restrict imports of fresh eggs over the next few years.

The government is encouraging larger farm flocks and a growing broiler industry in an effort to make Mexico self-sufficient in poultry and eggs. During 1956 alone the net increase in poultry numbers was an estimated 2 million. By the end of the year the government had 11 poultry breeding plants in operation; 5 more were added in January-February 1957; and 4 others are under construction. The sharp rise in imports of baby chicks in 1956 was partly for breeding stock for the new poultry program and partly for the broiler industry. A 20-percent increase in broiler production is forecast for 1957.

Consumption of poultry and poultry products is growing with population and prosperity. The poultry program will require continued imports of baby chicks over the next 2 or 3 years, and imports of other poultry products, with the exception of fresh eggs, likely will continue for several years ahead. When the government's poultry program shifts into high gear, however, which may take 2 or 3 years more, Mexico in all probability will supply its own needs for poultry and products and restrict competition from outside its borders through strict control of imports.

Powdered and evaporated milk are the principal **dairy products** imported into Mexico, followed by cheese and butter. The United States is the first supplier of powdered and evaporated milk in most years, although in 1954 Canada was a close competitor for powdered milk and even outranked us in furnishing the milk in large containers. The Netherlands, Denmark, and Switzerland compete strongly for the cheese and butter market, and were it not for Free Zone shipments would outrank us. Total milk production in the country is increasing slowly, but is not keeping up with consump-

TABLE 11.—Dairy and breeding cattle: Imports into Mexico, total and from the United States, 1950–56 [1]

Year	Dairy cattle		Breeding cattle	
	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.
	Head	*Head*	*Head*	*Head*
1950	1,379	1,206	641	610
1951	783	486	611	549
1952	1,375	1,349	1,602	1,549
1953	1,083	931	3,814	3,734
1954	1,911	1,825	1,949	1,834
1955	5,123	4,840	6,860	6,691
1956	7,738	3,972	10,430	10,138

[1] Entries through the free ports are important; for example, free port entries for years 1955 and 1956 were as follows (head): Dairy cattle, 1,481 and 520; breeding cattle, 105 and 76.

tion requirements for fluid milk or for processing into butter and cheese.

The Mexican Government as well as the dairymen are interested in improving their herds and increasing the output of milk. Imports of dairy and other breeding stock show a rising trend that is expected to continue during the immediate years ahead.

The Ministry of Agriculture is encouraging increases in the numbers of livestock and betterment of the quality through the establishment of breeding stations for various classes of livestock. To date there are eight such stations for cattle, two each in Veracruz and Querétaro, and one each in Michoacán, Tamaulipas, Nayarit, and Chihuahua. This program is resulting in increased imports of breeding stock, aided by a $5-million loan from the United States Export-Import Bank to the Mexican livestock industry during 1956. Over the next several years the increase in numbers and quality of animals should permit Mexico to meet its own domestic requirements without increases in imports.

Exports pay for imports

Agriculture provides much of the exchange to pay for Mexico's imports of all sorts of products, industrial as well as agricultural. With the exception of cotton, most of these exports provide dollars directly through sale to United States importers. Unlike many other Latin American countries that depend on the export of one or two commodities, Mexico has a diversified trade, ranging from live cattle to coffee, from fresh fruits to cottonseed cake, from garlic to vanilla. Many of these products are not grown at all in the United States and complement our economy; others provide seasonal supplements to our agriculture; and a few compete directly with our own producers.

Of the $131 million worth of agricultural products imported into the United

TABLE 12.—Complementary agricultural products: U. S. imports from Mexico, by value, fiscal 1955–56

Product	Imports	Product	Imports
	1,000 dollars		*1,000 dollars*
Coffee	79,669	Bananas	766
Drugs, roots, herbs, etc	3,208	Oils, essential	234
Cacao	1,298	Other complementary	44
Vanilla beans	1,258		
Sisal and henequen	846	Total	88,125
Other vegetable fibers	401		

States from Mexico in 1955–56, two-thirds are classed as complementary. Coffee is the principal item, accounting for 61 percent of total agricultural imports. Other products of importance are cacao, medicinals, vanilla, bananas, and hard fibers.

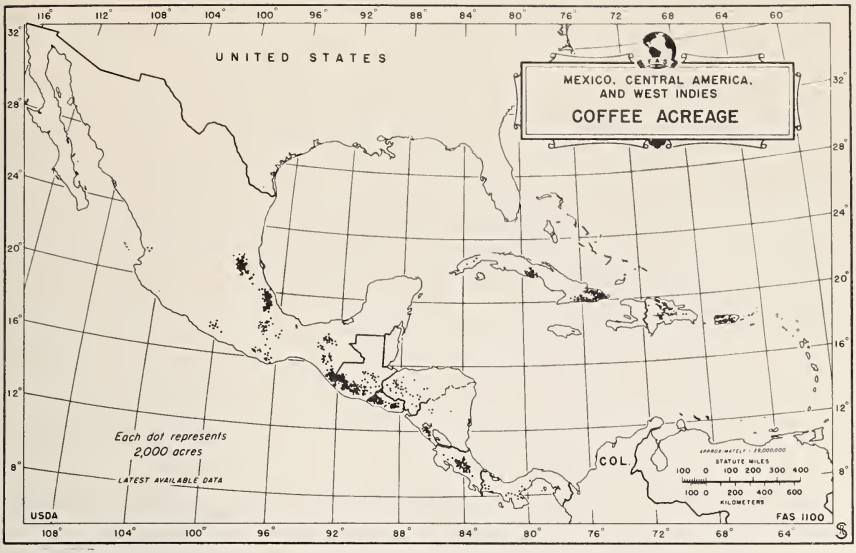
Most of these products come from the southern part of Mexico in the tropical regions. Even though they have been commercially important for some years, development of the area where they grow is only just beginning. Work has been started on plans for the Papaloapan Basin and for the Grijalva-Usumacinta Valleys to make them more productive.

Coffee is by far the most important of the complementary exports from Mexico. Output has been advancing steadily to a total of 1.6 million bags (of 60 kilos each) in 1955. Production declined somewhat in 1956 but the prospect for 1957 is for a further expansion. Mexico ranks third, after Brazil and Colombia, in providing world coffee supplies and is also the third supplier to the United States market. Veracruz is the largest producing State, followed by Chiapas and Oaxaca. These three account for more than four-fifths of the total.

Some observers believe that Mexico can add to its coffee lands as well as augment its output per tree very greatly over the next decade or so. In addition efforts are being made to improve the quality of the coffee and to establish grades that will protect high-quality coffee. Part of the coffee exported from Chiapas and Oaxaca is now graded according to international standards but coffee from Veracruz, the leading producer, is marked according to the district from which it comes—Coatepec, Jalapa, Orizaba, Córdoba, and Huatusco. Research and extension on coffee are carried on at the experiment station of the National Coffee Commission in the Coatepec region of Veracruz.

The National Union of Coffee Growers of Mexico has established a committee to purchase coffee from its members at US$60 per 100 pounds f. o. b. Mexican port for prime washed, the purchase to be financed by Financiera Cafetalera, S. A., a private organization.

Coffee, like most export products, is subject to an export tax. Presently this tax is 24 centavos per gross kilogram plus 25 percent ad valorem applied



to the official price of 13.75 pesos or the invoice price, whichever is higher. (Equivalent to 13.4 cents per pound based on the official price.)

Mexican **cacao** production has multiplied tenfold since prewar, and the country has gone from an importer to an exporter of this crop, although 1956 witnessed a decline from the previous year. The rise has resulted from larger plantings and improved care of plantations and trees. Almost 99 percent of total output is located in the two States of Tabasco and Chiapas. Continued higher output is assured by the establishment of an organization called Fomento de Cacao S.R.L. It will work with the American Cacao Research Institute to rehabilitate existing farms, including cleaning, pruning, and spraying for disease and pest control; establish new farms with selected plant material; offer growers contract management services using modern cultural practices. This program has obtained technical control over the two most prevalent infestations, black sponge fungus and thrips. The Experiment Station for Tropical Products at Puyacatengo, Tabasco, which began operations in January 1956, is working principally with cacao. The station hopes to develop a cacao that is high-yielding, of good quality, and disease resistant. It already has good-quality cacao seedlings for distribution to farmers, and plans to start distribution in 1957.

How much cacao Mexico will export during the next several years will depend primarily on the government's licensing policy, the level of domestic prices (controlled by the government from time to time), and the export taxes. The export tax presently is 13 percent of the official valuation of 8.50 pesos a kilo, or the equivalent of 4 cents a pound.

Exports of **drugs, roots, and herbs** have risen sharply over the past 10 years, until this group of products now ranks second as a complementary import into the United States from Mexico.

Mexico has a wide variety of botanical crude drugs. The curative properties of many of them were known in the time of the Aztecs. Hundreds of species are indigenous to the country, and many more have been introduced from Europe and other sources. A great majority of the crude drugs are found in the wild state and the quantity collected depends on the attractiveness of the price. Most of the commercially valuable products are grown in the tropical regions, although the temperate flora and the mountain and desert growth provide several types. There is definite possibility of expanding drug exports, given a more efficient organization of the industry and more definite cultivation practices.

Recently a plant popularly called barbasco, but of the species *Dioscorea*, is providing an extract from which hormones are synthesized. Mexico is the world's leading supplier of these substances. And it has imposed a prohibitive tax on the roots destined for export to encourage the development of Mexican processing of this plant.

Mexico's **vanilla** production is almost entirely for export. Record exports were made in 1948 when 686,000 pounds left the country, practically all to the United States. Production and export vary widely from one year to another, but since that time have generally declined.

Commercial stands are limited to central Veracruz and northern Puebla, the three leading districts being Papantla and Gutiérrez Zamora in the State of Veracruz, and San José Acateno in Puebla. The harvesting, curing, and exportation of the beans are regulated by the government to protect quality. Because of the large amount of labor involved in cultivating vanilla, plantations are small.

Spices of commercial importance include black pepper from the State of Tabasco and the mountainous regions dividing the States of Puebla and Veracruz; anise from the region of Tehuacán, Puebla, and in the Bajío; cumin, bay leaf, and wild marjoram from Guanajuato; and azafran, or saffron, grown in the Bajío. Total spice exports averaged 1,930,000 pounds

TABLE 13.—Vanilla: Exports from Mexico, 1940–56 [1]

Year	Exports	Year	Exports
	1,000 pounds		*1,000 pounds*
1940	470	1949	364
1941	571	1950	254
1942	146	1951	302
1943	366	1952	348
1944	500	1953	487
1945	183	1954	295
1946	185	1955	249
1947	485	1956	197
1948	686		

[1] Practically all exported to United States.

from 1938 to 1945, but they declined to less than 900,000 pounds in 1955. The United States is the principal market.

Exports of **henequen** have declined in recent years as coffee exports have mounted. In the prewar years exports were of fiber only, but recently the cordage industry in Mexico has absorbed an increasing share of the fiber output, and exports are more and more in the form of twine, cordage, and rope. Total fiber production in 1956 is estimated at 238 million pounds, with fiber exports of 15 million and cordage exports at 116 million pounds. The United States is the principal market for both the raw and processed product, although in the late 1940's the USSR was the principal market for cordage.

For several years the henequen industry, which is located primarily in the Yucatán Peninsula, has been losing money and has been subsidized by the government. In 1955, as a result of recommendations from the Ministry of Agriculture, the industry was reorganized and the official henequen fiber monopoly, Henequeneros de Yucatán, was liquidated. This agency had been established in 1938 as the sole buyer and seller of henequen fiber. The Gran Ejido Henequenero was also broken up into small ejidos, which are now financed through the National Bank of Ejido Credit. These ejidos produce approximately three-quarters of all the henequen, the remainder being supplied by private property owners. Cordeleros de Mexico, an association of cordage mills acting as buying agent, purchased all fiber produced by the ejidal groups and delivered to the National Bank of Ejido Credit at a fixed contract price through November 30, 1956, when the contract expired. Negotiations are in progress for a new contract. It is too soon to evaluate the success of the reorganization of the industry, but it is reasonable to assume that henequen exports of fiber and/or cordage will remain about at present levels, at least for the immediate future.

Miscellaneous fibers exported from Mexico include ixtle de lechuguilla, ixtle de palma, broomroot, sansevieria, and small quantities of abaca. The United States is the principal market. Most of the ixtle fibers as well as the broomroot grow wild in the northern part of the country. Small plantings of **kenaf** have been made in the States of Sinaloa, Veracruz, Morelos, and Nayarit. Domestic consumption has taken the total output, which was estimated at 1,750,000 pounds in 1955 and 770,000 pounds in 1956. **Abaca** plantings have resulted in small quantities for export. It is expected that the present area of less than 500 acres will be doubled during the current season.

Mexican production of **Gros Michel bananas** in 1956 of 4,400,000 stems was only one-fifth that of the prewar average, and exports of close to a million stems were only one-seventh those of 1946, the record export year. This shrinkage in output and trade has resulted from disease, particularly Panamá and Sigatoka, from unfavorable weather in some years, poor care of plantations, and the relatively favorable price of cacao on world markets that has tended to favor cacao plantings over bananas.

The principal banana areas are the States of Tabasco and Chiapas. The waning industry led the government to form an organization of producers, Confederación de Uniones de Productores de Plátano Tabasco, to help revive it. A fund was set up to finance production and to purchase agricultural machinery, insecticides, and other needed equipment. The flood control programs in the Grijalva-Usumacinta Valleys and the construction of the Caribbean Circuit Highway may help the industry to regain its position in the economy of the area. Little experimental work is being done on bananas in the experiment stations in and adjacent to the banana growing regions. Plans are being made, however, for putting several thousand acres of new land into banana plantations; and there is some inclination to increase plantings of bananas during the next few years to provide interim income while farmers change over from the production of low- to high-yielding cacao strains.

Essential oil production is a small but significant industry providing increasing amounts of exchange. Oil of lime is perhaps the principal oil. It is grown in the States of Michoacán, Colima, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo León. Other essential oils of commercial importance include orange, grapefruit, linaloe, eucalyptus, and lemongrass. Mexico, however, is also an important importer of essential oils.

Mexico as a competitor

Mexico is an increasing competitor for United States cotton in third markets and a potential competitor for several other products, including rice and tobacco. Its production is a threat to markets in Mexico for United States wheat, dairy products, corn, and beans; and Mexican exports compete with our farmers in the United States market for such things as winter vegetables, peanuts, and frozen strawberries. Imports of these supplementary agricultural items into the United States in 1955–56 fiscal year totaled just under $43 million.

In third markets

Mexico is the second world exporter of **cotton** following the United States. It has competed with Egypt, Pakistan, and Brazil for second place over recent years. The percentage of total world exports shows a consistently rising trend, however, increasing from 8 percent in 1951–52 to 15.9 percent in 1955–56. Reduced output in 1956, however, will result in lower exports in 1956–57.

On the production side, Mexico supplies a greater proportion of the total, both because of more cotton harvested there, and because of lower world output. In 1956, for example, Mexico furnished more than 4 percent of 38,930,000 bales, compared with 1 percent of 31,689,000 bales prewar.

Cotton is Mexico's first export. Its value in 1955 reached $186.5 million, almost one-quarter of the total export value and more than twice the value

TABLE 14.—Cotton: World exports, crop year beginning Aug. 1, 1951, 1954, and 1955

Country	1951	1954	1955
	1,000 bales	*1,000 bales*	*1,000 bales*
United States	5,711	3,585	2,321
Mexico	972	1,253	2,027
Egypt	908	1,081	1,433
Brazil	354	1,036	815
Pakistan	919	634	723
Other	3,321	4,628	5,431
Total	12,185	12,217	12,750
Mexico as percent of total	8.0	10.3	15.9

of coffee, the second most important export. Both production and exports show an upward trend, reaching a peak in 1955 when output was 2,250,000 bales and exports 2,027,000 bales, just 294,000 less than the United States. In 1956, however, cotton production declined to 1,750,000 bales, a sharp reduction from the previous harvest. Unfavorable weather in the Matamoros district, a smaller area planted in the West Coast, and insufficient water in Mexicali and the Laguna are the principal reasons for the reduction. Too, in the Laguna there was damage from Texas root rot and verticilium wilt, as well as from an infestation of thrips.

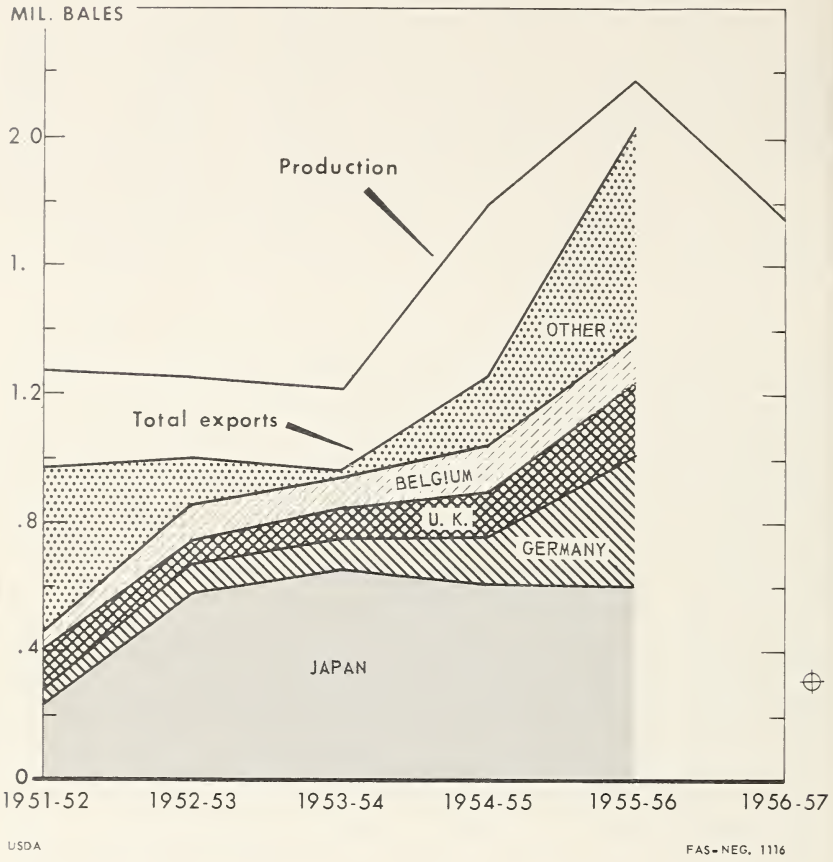
Mexican cotton is medium staple American upland that is directly competitive with United States export grades. Exports increased by more than 100 percent between 1950 and 1955, although the total for 1956–57 will contract in line with the shorter harvest. Domestic use of cotton is mounting, but exports still accounted for 80 percent of the total crop in 1955–56. Estimates for the current year (1956–57) indicate that consumption will be slightly higher in bales and considerably higher in proportion to a smaller total supply.

The principal market for Mexican cotton exports is Japan, followed by West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Mexican export statistics show most of the cotton going to the United States, but most of this total is merely transshipped through United States ports. From time to time there is considerable agitation for direct sales of cotton to country of final destination. Imports for consumption into the United States are governed by a quota, which amounted to 18,507 bales in 1956.

Practically all of the cotton is grown under irrigation—in fact, one of of the principal stimuli to expanded output in recent years has been the development of large irrigation projects and the drilling of wells. In 1950 approximately 60 percent of the crop was irrigated compared with more than 95 percent in 1956.

One of the first of the large-scale irrigation projects was in the Laguna near the city of Torreón and covering parts of the States of Coahuila and Durango. The first emphasis there was on cotton, and the region led all others in pro-

Mexico's cotton output and exports are increasing rapidly



duction of this crop until the late 1940's. In spite of the relative decline of the area in the total cotton picture, production rose in the Laguna from 145,000 bales before the war to 396,000 bales in 1955. In the crop year 1946–47, however, the region around Matamoros pushed into first place. Although the Laguna was again first in the following 2 years, it now appears that both Matamoros and the irrigated valleys of the States of Sinaloa and Sonora have the lead.

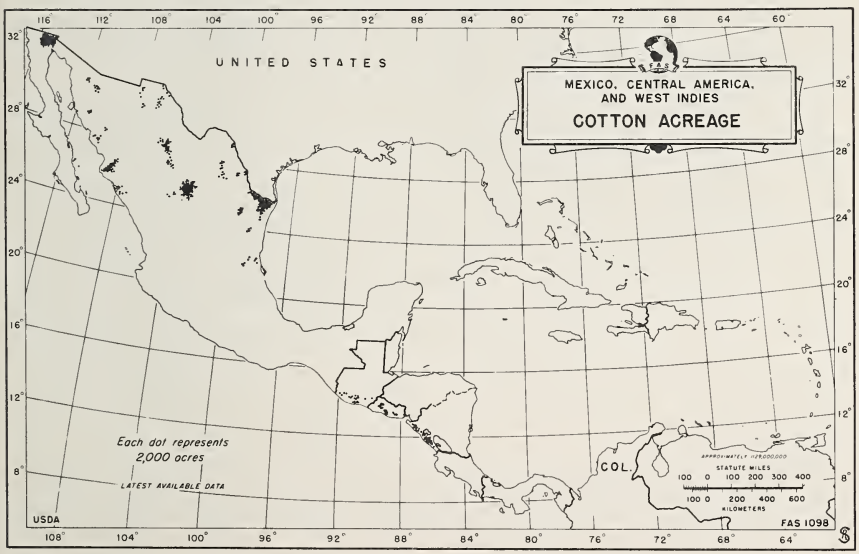
Average yields per acre have risen from less than half a bale prewar to a peak of 0.98 bale in 1954. The Delicias region produced more than a bale per acre in 1955–56, followed by Mexicali, Sonora-Sinaloa, and the Laguna with 0.95. The Office of Special Studies in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation is starting experimental work on cotton in the station just outside Ciudad Obregón in the State of Sonora. Improved varieties resulting from this work, better cultivation methods, more adequate control

of insect infestation, and the increased use of fertilizer promise continuation of the upward trend in yields. Much of the cotton production is becoming mechanized, and aircraft is being used to dust the fields with insecticides.

One of the principal deterrents to continued expansion in cotton production in Mexico will be shortage of water. In all areas with the exception of the Sinaloa, water reserves in the reservoirs are low from time to time, depending on the rains that sometimes do not come in time to be of maximum usefulness. Continued expansion is expected over the next several years in the Fuerte Valley in the State of Sinaloa, where water supplies are considered sufficient for the land area of the valley. The use of more and more cotton by the domestic mills probably will absorb a greater part of the crop, but exports are expected to at least maintain present levels over the next few years.

The Mexican Government realizes the importance of cotton as a foreign exchange earner and has established several committees to study export policy for cotton. In March 1956, for example, a Committee for the Study of the Cotton Problem was inaugurated, followed in June by a higher-level Executive Committee on Cotton Problems. The latter is composed of the Ministers of Agriculture, Economy, and Finance.

During the early part of 1956 several other actions were taken to promote exports. A barter arrangement is in operation for the exchange of Mexican cotton for German artificial fiber, whereby the importer of German fiber arranges with the cotton exporter (through the payment of a commission) to sell cotton to Germany within a certain period of time. Another agreement between the National Bank of Foreign Commerce and a group of French banks calls for the importation of French commodities and the exportation of Mexican commodities, principally cotton. The government



Mexican agricultural agent inspects diseased cotton in the Laguna, site of one of Mexico's first large irrigation projects. Nearly all of Mexico's cotton is grown under irrigation, and is of the type that is directly competitive with U. S. export grades. In recent years, Mexico has doubled its production and trade in cotton.

has also started a program for the exchange of cotton for commodities subject to import licensing. This form of exchange has been termed "compensatory exchange" to distinguish it from barter. The first import products to be affected were trucks from the United States. Later other commodities were added to the list, but by far the larger proportion of the trade involves automobile parts and trucks. Under this program permits are granted for imports provided the importers show evidence of the exportation of an equivalent value of cotton. Importers arrange with cotton exporters to assume the responsibility for exporting the required quantity of cotton. For this service, the cotton merchant receives a commission.

Cotton exports are subject to an export tax, as are most exports from Mexico. These taxes provide a substantial share of total government revenue. The tax is 22 percent ad valorem on an official valuation of 4.60 pesos per kilo. In addition a federal surtax of 2 percent of the amount of the tax is applied for the benefit of municipalities through which the exports are made. This increases the tax to 22.44 percent, equivalent to 3.74 cents per pound. The official valuation is subject to change by the government at its discretion. Such a change was made during the summer of 1956 when the valuation was lowered to benefit the growers. The government intended this reduction to be passed on to the growers although no minimum price was fixed officially.

Wheat is the principal competitor of cotton in all the irrigated regions with the exception of Matamoros. Although cotton returns per acre exceed those for wheat, costs are higher for cotton, it has a high export tax, and

credit scarcity is sometimes a problem, which improves the position of wheat. In addition, the wheat price to the producer is supported by the government at a high level, whereas the government does not maintain a minimum producer price for cotton. The government does provide certain credits for cotton production, however, as well as for wheat and other crops.

Mexico is a net exporter of **rice** in most years, although the quantity has been declining recently. Before the war it exported an average of 26.6 million pounds, almost half of it to Germany. During the war years, exports declined to almost half the previous level, but rose to a peak in 1949 when more than 90 million pounds were shipped. Exports declined rapidly thereafter until in 1955 there was no reported trade. Domestic consumption has been absorbing more and more of the production. During 1956, however, output climbed to 12 million bushels and small exports were made to El Salvador and Canada.

Intensive work is being done on rice both at the experiment station at Cotaxtla (a cooperative station between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Rockefeller Foundation) and at the experiment station of the Papaloapan Commission, testing varieties for yield, time of planting, and cultural practices. Output already has increased substantially in the Papaloapan Basin, and government officials are talking about export markets. United States rice may face increasing competition from this region in third markets.

Another crop from the Papaloapan Basin that may offer future competition for the United States abroad is **tobacco.** The commission is interested in developing a better-quality tobacco that could be exported to Europe. The varieties produced in the basin are largely dark leaf, and the quantities entering trade will be small, at least for the immediate future.

Mexico has exported small amounts of **flaxseed** from time to time, but probably will not offer serious competition for United States flaxseed in the near future. There were no exports in 1954 or 1955, although 16,000 tons moved abroad in 1953, and 2,000 tons in 1956. Destination of exports has been Europe and the Far East, principally Belgium and Japan. Production for the export market is located largely in the West Coast States of Sonora, Sinaloa, and Baja California, whereas that for domestic use is concentrated in Jalisco-Michoacán. Production declined sharply from 58,000 short tons in 1953 to an estimated 14,000 tons in 1956.

Exports of **oranges** provide some competition with United States fruit in certain years. Both production and export have been erratic, but the 1956–57 crop is estimated to be the largest on record. The principal producing zones are in Nuevo León and neighboring States and in Veracruz, where production is forecast at 40 percent higher than for the previous 5-year average.

In United States market

Fresh vegetables, fruits, sugar, and cattle are the principal supplementary imports into the United States from Mexico. They offer some competition

to United States farmers in certain areas of the country at certain times of the year, but on the whole they supply products that meet specific needs in the United States market.

Tomatoes lead all other vegetables in value of exports from Mexico, although significant quantities of green peppers, green peas, string beans, and eggplant are exported during the winter season. All of these exports are destined for the United States market. Production for export is concentrated in the West Coast States of Sonora and Sinaloa, and in the El Mante area of the State of Tamaulipas near the Pan-American Highway.

Although total tomato production has been rising steadily, production for export has declined in recent years. Exports of 109 million pounds in 1955, for example, were the lowest since the prewar period, although 1956 saw some slight increase.

The West Coast States of Sinaloa and Sonora are also the important producers of other fresh vegetables for export. Exports of most of these with the exception of string beans have declined too. Mexico also supplies the United States significant quantities of onions, garlic, and dry chiles, although the United States supplies Mexico with onions, too.

The Mexican market for fresh vegetables is expanding rapidly, to absorb a larger proportion of total production. The government favors expansion of sugarcane, wheat, cotton, rice, and livestock rather than vegetables in the West Coast regions, so that there is little likelihood that the winter vegetable export industry will grow much over the next few years. The 1956–57 season, however, may be considerably better than last year, barring killing freezes and an unforeseeable drop in the export demand.

The principal **fresh fruits** from Mexico that furnish supplementary imports into the United States are pineapples, cantaloups, watermelons, and limes. Mexico also exports oranges, but most of them go to Canada. The presence of the Mexican fruitfly probably will continue to limit exports of oranges to the United States market. Export of limes has been erratic, with the peak coming in 1953 when 147,000 boxes were exported. About one-third of the lime crop is going into juice and into essential oil. Pineapple exports have declined from 69 million pounds in 1950, but there is now an important trade in processed pineapples. In 1956, for example, 33 million pounds of preserved pineapples were exported compared with 44 million pounds of fresh pineapples. Exports of cantaloups and watermelons have risen steadily, and prospects are for a continued expansion in this trade. Another fruit product that has entered the export market in increasing quantities in recent years is frozen strawberries. Trade in 1956 reached almost 15 million pounds.

Sugar production in Mexico has increased steadily from 347,000 short tons prewar to an estimated 1 million tons in 1956–57. During the war years Mexico was a net importer of sugar, but is now a significant exporter. Consumption in the country is also expanding rapidly, however, and this, together with a short crop in 1956, resulted in a reduction in exports in 1956.

Sugarcane acreage and production are expanding in the Papaloapan Valley and in other areas of Veracruz, and the developments in the valley will no doubt encourage continuation of this trend. The San Cristóbal sugar mill, the largest in Mexico, installed new equipment in the summer of 1956 to bring its grinding capacity up to 1.8 million short tons. By 1958–59 the mill hopes to increase its capacity up to 2 million tons, or the equivalent to 193,000 short tons of sugar. Now that the floods have been controlled in the valley, sugarcane can be planted on the rich alluvial soils of the river banks. The rich soils, together with improved varieties of cane, will permit greatly expanded output of sugar from this area. Sugar imports into the United States, however, are controlled by import quota under the Sugar Act. The current quota from Mexico is 44,409 short tons.

Peanuts is one of the minor crops exported from Mexico that has competed in the United States market with domestic production. Mexican output has been running about 80,000 to 85,000 short tons, and exports reached 36,000 tons in 1955 (unshelled basis). About one-third of the total production is in the State of Jalisco. Other production regions are Nayarit-Sinaloa, Morelos-Puebla, and Guanajuato. Peanuts produced for export are for confectionery use and the major destination is Canada, followed by the United States. Since 1953, imports into the United States have been subject to an annual quota of 1,709,000 pounds. Although this is a global quota, Mexico is the principal supplier, with only insignificant amounts from other countries.

Feeder cattle have long been a supplementary import into the United States from Mexico. During the war years Mexican exports of live cattle averaged 450,000 head a year. In late 1946, however, an epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico automatically closed the United States border to imports from that country until the disease was stamped out. Another flare-up in 1954 again closed the border for a short period. Exports have not reached the wartime peak, but in 1955, 245,000 head were shipped, practically all to the United States. The 1956 trade was down sharply.

During the past decade Mexico has exported frozen and refrigerated beef, part of it going to supply army installations abroad. These exports have declined from the 1952 peak of 74 million pounds to 12 million pounds in 1956.

Although the livestock situation in Mexico generally is good and increases in numbers and meat production are forecast, the northern areas of the country that supply feeder cattle and meat for export have suffered severely from drought, and the livestock industry there has increased very slowly. The situation was so serious in late 1956 and in January 1957 that the Federal Government enacted emergency measures to alleviate it. These included credits for drilling wells, building small dams, establishing pastures, and purchasing feed; a 50-percent reduction in freight rates for feeds and transportation of cattle; and a reduction in the export tax on cows and heifers until May 31, 1957, to promote exports of cattle from the drought-stricken States. Part of the breeding stock imported with the proceeds of

a loan from the Export-Import Bank is going into the northern States to replenish the depleted herds. Over the next 5 to 10 years government efforts in behalf of the livestock industry will result in greatly expanded livestock production, but, for the period just ahead, the export trade in live animals and meat is not expected to increase significantly.

Outlook

Over the short run, Mexico's policies of attaining self-sufficiency and restricting imports of basic foods will limit severely the market for United States agricultural exports, particularly of grains. For the longer run, however, continuation of prosperity and rising standards of living may lead to lessening of strict import control and freer competition in the Mexican market.

For the immediate future, it appears that the Mexican economy will continue healthy, although there may be some slowing down of the boom that characterized the last 5 years. Wholesale and retail prices and cost of living at the beginning of 1957 were stable, but pressures for increases in prices and wages may result in some rise. Imports and exports are expected to continue at a high level, with the trade deficit offset from tourist expenditures, receipts from bracero remittances, etc. The new budget indicates continued government support for the irrigation program, as well as for construction of railroads, port, and electric power facilities. The 1957 budget was increased by 13 percent above that of 1956 and the overall budget shows a surplus. Fourteen percent of the total is allocated to agriculture.

The general optimism with respect to Mexico as a whole extends into the agricultural sector, although prospects for reduced cotton harvests and exports in 1957 are causing some concern. Damage in the drought-stricken north in 1956 necessitated government aid, and prospects for 1957 are not considered much better. New investment is being made in agriculture, industry, transportation, and other public services financed both from domestic sources and from direct investments and credits from abroad.

Unfavorable factors include the low purchasing power of much of the population. A large proportion of the people still make their living from the land and associated processing industries. Estimates place the proportion directly dependent upon agriculture at 58 percent. The share of agriculture in the national product, however, is low, representing only 20 percent of the total in 1955. Transportation remains inadequate and costs of distribution are high. For the longer term, there may be a general rise in the price levels and a danger of inflationary developments. Should exports decline, prospects for imports would also be curtailed. Foreign credits and investments, however, possibly may supply the necessary push to keep the economy moving ahead.

Over the long run the prospects are that Mexico will move ahead with its development plans to use its resources more intensively and more efficiently.

TABLE 15.—Estimated food consumption in Mexico, 1953 and 1955

Commodity	1953, consumption per capita per day	1955, consumption per capita per day
	Calories	*Calories*
Cereals	1,524	1,328
Pulses	106	105
Potatoes	14	12
Other vegetables	10	12
Fruit	81	74
Sugar	262	284
Fats and oils	193	173
Livestock products	250	260
Fish	9	9
Total	2,449	2,257

The regional planning initiated in President Alemán's administration is being extended and probably will continue to provide a basis for the overall economic development of the areas covered. Examples of this overall planning for a region include the Papaloapan and Tepalcatepec Basins, the Grijalva-Usumacinta Valleys, and the Fuerte Valley. As per capita income rises throughout the country it can be expected that per capita demand for agricultural products will rise also. With per capita demand going up and population zooming at 2 to 3 percent each year, the need for imports of basic agricultural products may again be felt. Import restriction in 1955, for example, resulted in an apparent decline in the per capita food consumption in Mexico below what it was in 1953. Most of this decline is accounted for by a reduction in corn intake not fully compensated for by an increase in consumption of other foods.

Looking ahead still farther, we can anticipate that the southeastern region of Mexico will advance at an increasing tempo in the years ahead. Since this is the area where items complementary to those of the Temperate Zones are grown, we can look to it to provide the exchange for those things Mexico will wish to import to maintain an expanding economy and a rising standard of living. Government officials in Mexico recognize the potentialities of this tropical region, and several of them feel that it will be the most productive one in the country in the near future.

Appendix Tables

TABLE 1.—Exports: United States to Mexico, average 1935–39, annual 1952–55

Commodity	Average 1935–39	1952	1953	1954	1955
	1,000 dollars	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
Wheat grain	1,048	38,699	19,052	5,324	1,279
Corn	478	2,320	29,525	6,745	129
Barley malt	93	2,068	2,234	1,491	1,036
Other grains and preparations	330	3,000	2,004	2,559	1,832
Animals, live	212	1,781	2,548	2,096	4,141
Lard	509	5,331	5,963	5,272	2,748
Dairy products	209	4,432	3,812	2,297	2,991
Tallow, inedible	8	3,322	2,609	3,641	4,243
Eggs, shell	77	7,536	8,137	6,828	5,387
Meat and products	160	795	894	692	1,103
Hides and skins	33	206	710	1,610	5,049
Cottonseed	(1)	1,565	1,948	1,665	3,045
Cottonseed oil	37	3,415	189	1,765	0
Other vegetable oils and waxes	214	1,542	879	1,135	590
Beans	16	10,296	7,801	2,186	1,686
Other vegetables and preparations	258	2,233	2,135	1,449	1,994
Fruit and preparations	316	2,393	2,653	2,100	1,550
Tobacco leaf	33	2,245	3,674	3,712	2,098
Hops	86	2,175	2,140	1,285	1,635
Other agricultural products	1,123	4,673	4,154	5,801	5,997
Total agricultural products	5,240	100,027	103,061	59,653	49,396

[1] If any, not separately classified.

TABLE 2.—Imports: United States from Mexico, average 1935–39, annual 1952–55

Commodity	Average 1935–39	1952	1953	1954	1955
	1,000 dollars	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
Cattle, live	3,390	10,680	9,399	0	16,390
Beef and veal, pickled or cured	0	15,081	1,244	3,595	12
Meats, preserved and prepared	(1)	5,739	4,403	150	307
Other meats and products	6	1,763	886	86	2,736
Wool	10	0	6	0	0
Cattle hides	232	0	0	6	0
Goatskins	752	1	0	0	(1)
Coffee	4,361	52,896	68,768	87,833	86,604
Cacao	3	2,269	283	3,269	3,643
Tomatoes	1,014	13,673	14,895	9,596	4,403
Other vegetables and preparations	798	4,283	4,678	3,708	2,837
Bananas	6,078	2,230	1,957	2,241	1,449
Pineapples, fresh or preserved	125	1,778	1,403	1,914	1,847
Other fruits and preparations	163	2,125	2,761	3,569	4,740
Sugar	10	1,051	2,044	1,497	1,481
Cottonseed cake and meal	180	9,482	3,766	3,138	1,952
Other feeds and fodders	287	2,119	1,052	1,971	1,337
Sisal and henequen	5,088	7,501	5,243	5,424	4,091
Cotton [2]	990	5,967	3,632	561	5,790
Linters	184	3,547	4,609	2,048	2,937
Candelilla wax	292	7,099	1,116	490	1,860
Other agricultural products	2,568	14,888	11,867	14,367	17,262
Total agricultural products	26,531	164,172	144,012	145,463	161,678

[1] Less than $500.
[2] Largely for reexport.

TABLE 3.—Wheat: Acreage and production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Acreage	Production	Average and year	Acreage	Production
	1,000 acres	*1,000 bushels*		*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bushels*
Average:			Annual—Continued		
1935–39	1,243	14,293	1952	1,465	18,812
1940–44	1,394	15,616	1953	1,623	24,654
1945–49	1,225	15,278	1954	1,890	30,827
Annual:			1955	1,977	31,232
1950	1,458	19,290	1956	2,258	44,091
1951	1,662	21,678			

TABLE 4.—Wheat: Acreage and production in Mexico, by states, selected years, 1947, 1951, and 1955

State	1947		1951		1955	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
	1,000 acres	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bushels*
Coahuila	255	3,347	151	1,729	140	1,665
Chihuahua	84	1,167	93	1,208	74	946
Durango	46	576	89	1,170	63	1,054
Nuevo León	4	45	17	165	26	337
San Luis Potosí	1	13	4	30	6	76
Tamaulipas	(1)	3	3	33	5	61
Zacatecas	9	89	47	595	31	401
Veracruz	2	15	6	57	6	53
Baja California	75	1,103	75	1,041	67	826
Sinaloa					90	1,002
Sonora	209	3,361	321	6,200	612	14,476
Chiapas	2	14	6	78	5	68
Oaxaca	10	80	49	361	27	283
Guerrero	1	1				
Aguascalientes	8	114	3	41	7	89
Distrito Federal	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)	2
Guanajuato	140	1,821	131	1,357	167	2,109
Hidalgo	6	76	11	90	18	236
Jalisco	66	669	148	1,679	86	1,055
Mexico	82	810	99	1,149	90	1,072
Michoacán	139	1,506	185	2,286	206	2,543
Morelos	2	13	2	25	2	21
Puebla	57	452	153	1,601	166	1,930
Querétaro	11	133	26	312	53	589
Tlaxcala	16	88	43	394	30	338
Total	1,225	15,497	1,662	21,602	1,977	31,232

[1] Less than 500 acres.

TABLE 5.—Wheat and flour: Imports into Mexico, total and from the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Flour		Wheat [1]	
	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*
Average:				
1935–39	161	161	1,072	1,071
1940–44	24,197	24,197	7,202	7,201
1945–49	35,742	35,742	10,158	10,143
Annual:				
1950	101	101	15,629	15,582
1951	187	187	13,388	13,378
1952	6,772	6,772	16,153	16,134
1953	187	187	8,892	8,892
1954	74	74	2,287	2,287
1955	6	6	351	351
1956	6	6	3,119	3,117

[1] Does not include free port entries, which in 1952–56 were as follows (1,000 bu.): 466; 273; 231; 262; 166.
Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 6.—Corn: Acreage and production in Mexico, by States, selected years, 1947, 1951, and 1954

State	1947		1951		1954	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
	1,000 acres	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bushels*
Coahuila	106	1,142	87	628	111	1,417
Chihuahua	289	3,386	317	2,827	447	5,787
Durango	610	5,590	637	5,840	559	7,480
Nuevo León	148	1,732	186	2,179	200	2,244
San Luis Potosí	173	1,811	368	3,796	336	4,370
Tamaulipas	205	2,835	221	2,900	344	3,897
Zacatecas	581	4,685	648	6,980	665	5,905
Campeche	89	1,142	177	1,480	111	1,496
Quintana Roo	15	236	20	315	22	354
Tabasco	94	1,378	116	1,523	180	2,126
Veracruz	524	8,149	925	14,746	1,050	15,669
Yucatán	136	2,165	174	2,113	227	2,205
Baja California	22	315	5	88	7	118
Nayarit	200	4,055	210	4,596	287	6,299
Sinaloa	319	5,315	306	2,986	386	5,826
Sonora	77	905	71	850	74	1,024
Colima	77	1,142	74	1,574	99	1,496
Chiapas	405	5,787	494	7,480	605	8,700
Guerrero	368	4,763	420	6,438	331	3,937
Oaxaca	373	3,701	460	5,381	455	5,393
Aguascalientes	109	1,063	117	916	190	2,165
Distrito Federal	39	472	47	568	52	669
Guanajuato	801	7,007	842	10,593	969	12,952
Hidalgo	190	1,811	420	2,677	363	4,606
Jalisco	756	8,031	1,112	15,235	1,834	29,526
Mexico	484	5,157	665	9,002	808	11,181
Michoacán	489	5,511	599	8,106	857	12,204
Morelos	82	1,142	122	1,756	121	1,929
Puebla	522	5,315	642	5,906	773	10,000
Querétaro	180	1,457	235	2,912	245	2,205
Tlaxcala	215	1,929	298	2,410	272	3,504
Total	8,678	99,129	11,015	134,801	12,980	176,684

TABLE 7.—Corn: Mexican trade, total and with the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Imports [1]		Exports	
	Total	From U. S.	Total	To U. S.
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*
Average:				
1935–39	627	558	673	672
1940–44	1,603	1,492	.....	.....
1945–49	469	443	128	127
Annual:				
1950	12	12	.....	.....
1951	4,644	4,644	.....	.....
1952	962	934	.....	.....
1953	14,670	14,669	.....	.....
1954	5,696	5,344	.....	.....
1955	35	35	2,308	1,344
1956	4,488	[2] 4,471	21	20

[1] Do not include free port entries, which are practically all from the United States. These vary widely from one year to another. Data for 1952–55 were as follows (1,000 bu.): 1952, 14; 1953, 163; 1954, 217; 1955, 291; and 1956, 197.

[2] Trade reports indicate that 30% of the total arrived from South Africa.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 8.—Selected grains: Acreage and production in Mexico, year ending June 30, averages 1935–49 annual 1950–56

Average and year	Corn		Rice [1]		Barley			Oats	
					Grain		Malt		
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Production	Acreage	Production
	Mil. acres	*Mil. bu.*	*1,000 acres*	*Mil. bu.*	*1,000 acres*	*Mil. bu.*	*Mil. bu.*	*1,000 acres*	*Mil. bu.*
Average:									
1935–39	8	2	96	4	373	3	0.5	29	31
1940–44	8	2	155	5	391	4	2	86	2
1945–49	9	3	190	7	457	5	2	108	2
Annual:									
1950	11	123	262	9	567	6	2	198	4
1951	11	135	257	9	570	6	2	202	3
1952	10	126	204	7	570	6	2	203	4
1953	12	147	232	7	585	6	2	213	3
1954	13	177	222	8	570	6	2	216	4
1955	10	142	284	10	593	5	2	185	5
1956 [2]	11	173	277	12	600	[3] 9	.....	([4])	2

[1] Rough rice. [2] Preliminary. [3] Includes malting barley. [4] Not available.

TABLE 9.—Barley grain, malt, and hops: Imports into Mexico, total and from the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56 [1]

Average and year	Barley grain		Barley malt		Hops	
	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*
Average:						
1935–39	284	135	213	97	847	545
1940–44	432	243	447	437	1,214	1,202
1945–49	341	185	713	704	1,878	1,823
Annual:						
1950	157	157	746	727	1,675	1,594
1951	758	747	890	860	3,492	3,492
1952	80	80	834	830	2,806	2,802
1953	143	143	835	835	2,826	2,826
1954	617	605	639	639	2,114	2,103
1955	351	351	420	418	2,833	2,773
1956	784	784	674	674	2,271	2,220

[1] Additional quantities enter through the free ports, largely from the U. S. These vary from year to year. For recent years they were as follows: Barley grain (1,000 bu.)—1952, 146; 1953, 44; barley malt (1,000 bu.)—1952, 70; 1953, 63; 1954, 73; 1955, 64; hops (1,000 lb.)—1954, 161; 1955, 278.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 10.—Selected pulses: Acreage and production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Beans		Chickpeas		Broad beans		Lentils		Dried peas	
	1,000 acres	*1,000 bags* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bags* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*Bags* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*Bags* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*Bags* [1]
Average:										
1935–39	1,419	2,579	206	1,099	70	311,422	5	2,163	12	41,138
1940–44	1,726	3,440	284	1,702	89	400,730	5	2,332	16	69,753
1945–49	1,915	4,144	344	2,312	94	411,735	7	4,079	18	82,483
Annual:										
1950	2,395	5,518	296	1,852	96	421,740	8	5,071	18	95,349
1951	2,393	5,291	287	1,835	97	477,736	8	5,320	18	99,053
1952	2,385	5,390	274	1,840	98	486,467	9	5,423	18	98,744
1953	2,423	6,613	280	1,918	101	462,591	9	5,639	17	92,770
1954	2,737	8,806	285	2,022	96	514,752	9	6,010	17	98,259
1955	2,471	8,597	301	2,072	([2])	507,058	9	6,065	18	110,076
1956	2,471	8,597	247	1,764	([2])	507,058	.....	6,614	([2])	88,184

[1] Bags of 100 pounds.
[2] Not available.

TABLE 11.—Dried beans: Mexican exports and imports, total and from the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Exports		Imports	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	From U. S.
Average:	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	3,503	2,249	1,865	435
1940–44	13,722	10,803	90	49
1945–49	3,226	51	1,062	508
Annual:				
1950	1,797	106	88	86
1951	[1]	[1]	20,013	20,011
1952	[1]	[1]	128,843	127,391
1953	51	23	102,412	86,989
1954	553	551	29,034	18,666
1955	20,441	10,240	4,145	4,140
1956	23,922	1,581	4,015	4,004

[1] Less than 500 pounds.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 12.—Pulses, other dried: Exports from Mexico, total and to the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Broad beans		Chickpeas	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	To U. S.
Average:	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	4,053	269	65,201	16,162
1940–44	1,059	1,058	91,101	78,953
1945–49	857	846	49,284	15,863
Annual:				
1950	668	668	25,659	4,700
1951	664	663	76,425	6,405
1952	681	681	30,679	2,288
1953	390	390	31,596	5,503
1954	168	168	13,225	4,056
1955	273	273	42,419	1,601
1956	[1]	[1]	41,759	7,826

[1] Insignificant.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 13.—Pineapples, limes, oranges, watermelons, cantaloups: Production in Mexico, averages 1935-49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Pineapples	Limes	Oranges	Watermelons	Cantaloups
Average:	*Million pounds*	*Million boxes* [1]	*Million boxes* [2]	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*
1935–39	82	[3]	5	72	29
1940–44	117	1	8	62	32
1945–49	230	2	11	66	37
Annual:					
1950	283	2	17	81	49
1951	296	2	16	84	52
1952	298	2	17	86	53
1953	280	2	18	131	80
1954	274	2	19	150	88
1955	273	2	18	106	65
1956	287	2	19	.....	.....

[1] 80-lb. boxes.
[2] 70-lb. boxes.
[3] Less than 1 million.

TABLE 14.—Apples, grapes, peaches ,pears, plums: Production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Apples	Grapes	Peaches	Pears	Plums
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:					
1935–39	1,230	25	1,048	331	57
1940–44	1,832	43	1,205	507	56
1945–49	2,029	72	.....	596	59
Annual:					
1950	2,169	105	2,297	639	61
1951	2,337	70	2,261	684	64
1952	2,563	77	2,346	751	65
1953	2,558	87	2,350	766	73
1954	2,578	102	2,344	755	82
1955	2,664	88	2,388	705	99
1956	2,756	106	2,388	750	99

TABLE 15.—Pineapples, limes, watermelons, cantaloups, oranges: Exports from Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56 [1]

Average and year	Pineapples	Limes	Watermelons	Cantaloups	Oranges
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 boxes* [2]	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 boxes* [3]
Average:					
1935–39	13,172	110	105	827	1
1940–44	24,100	61	669	849	20
1945–49	56,923	24	1,858	2,302	([4])
Annual:					
1950	68,985	93	1,389	7,870	904
1951	36,625	85	2,694	5,139	228
1952	42,619	73	5,708	8,649	269
1953	37,388	147	11,038	16,905	205
1954	48,523	70	11,557	33,852	197
1955	47,994	47	28,298	44,740	458
1956	44,447	64	55,327	70,715	772

[1] Exports to countries other than the United States were insignificant except for oranges. Although destination of oranges is shown to the United States, most of the oranges were shipped through the United States in bond to Canada.
[2] 80 lb. boxes
[3] 70 lb. boxes.
[4] Not reported separately during most of this period.

TABLE 16.—Apples, grapes, peaches, pears, plums: Imports into Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56 [1] [2]

Average and year	Apples	Grapes	Peaches	Pears	Plums
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:					
1935–39	31	1,813	89	378	94
1940–44	66	2,359	77	680	295
1945–49	98	2,427	115	1,054	219
Annual:					
1950	7	223	4	90	57
1951	31	260	10	152	24
1952	33	1,058	26	511	35
1953	82	1,656	376	924	110
1954	70	1,821	24	661	29
1955	2	108	1	51	0.2
1956	2	125	2	59	([3])

[1] Imports from countries other than the United States were insignificant.
[2] Does not include free port entries. Total fresh fruits so imported average 16 to 20 million pounds each year.
[3] Insignificant

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 17.—Bananas: Production and exports from Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Production	Exports	Average and year	Production	Exports
	Million stems [1]	*Million stems* [1]		*Million stems* [1]	*Million stems* [1]
Average:			Annual—Continued		
1935–39	22.0	13.6	1952	9.0	2.6
1940–44	12.2	6.1	1953	9.0	2.5
1945–49	13.3	6.2	1954	9.0	2.7
Annual:			1955	7.7	1.8
1950	11.3	4.6	1956	4.4	1.0
1951	8.3	3.5			

[1] Stems of 50 lbs.

TABLE 18.—Raisins and prunes: Imports into Mexico, total and from the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Raisins		Prunes	
	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:				
1935–39	1,057	992	.....	.....
1940–44	1,293	1,018	.....	.....
1945–49	1,151	1,151	.....	.....
Annual:				
1950	527	527	84	84
1951	1,506	1,497	646	646
1952	1,775	1,672	694	682
1953	2,222	1,951	829	823
1954	2,401	2,365	831	831
1955	1,971	1,932	460	460
1956	2,374	2,346	664	664

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 19.—Tobacco: Acreage, production, and imports into Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Acreage	Production	Imports [1]			
			Virginia	Other filler [2]	Wrapper	Cigarettes
	1,000 acres	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:						
1935–39	47	38,131	66	121	22	40
1940–44	62	52,591	51	386	37	88
1945–49	89	79,030	589	1,241	26	154
Annual:						
1950	86	77,161	320	2,394	22	2
1951	87	78,219	227	260	20	49
1952	88	79,452	851	2,727	24	126
1953	89	80,949	1,318	1,986	18	249
1954	92	82,968	1,841	4,511	13	187
1955	101	88,184	1,479	1,559	20	93
1956 [3]	73	66,138	1,182	2,663	18	24

[1] Does not include free port entries. They vary widely from year to year. Available data from 1952–55 are as follows (1,000 lbs.): Cigarettes—1952, 1; 1953, 476; cut tobacco—1953. 332; 1954, 312; and 1955, 227. Virginia and other filler all from the U. S.; wrapper largely from U. S. in late years.
[2] Mostly burley.
[3] Preliminary.

TABLE 20.—Beef cattle and frozen and refrigerated beef: Exports from Mexico, total and to the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Beef cattle		Frozen and refrigerated beef	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	To U. S.
Average:	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	294	294	.....	.....
1940–44	450	450	275	275
1945–49	173	173	2,337	322
Annual:				
1950	.....	.....	16,867	0
1951	.....	.....	70,477	56,094
1952	124	123	74,249	74,152
1953	135	135	26,409	25,598
1954	5	.....	29,705	24,189
1955	245	243	18,741	13,882
1956	111	111	11,775	7,008

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 21.—Dairy products: Imports into Mexico, total and from the United States, average 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Powdered milk		Condensed and evaporated milk	
	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.
Average:	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	392	138	614	553
1940–44	794	608	1,040	1,033
1945–49	9,138	9,066	2,366	2,359
Annual:				
1950	9,425	7,238	148	148
1951	12,621	12,081	117	116
1952	13,686	12,076	120	119
1953	17,789	8,481	162	161
1954	6,358	1,878	59	58
1955	6,506	5,187	146	146
1956	13,036	12,663	3,534	2,881

Average and year	Cheese		Butter		Total dairy products through free ports
	Total	From U. S.	Total	From U. S.	
Average:	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	968	101	172	136	1,259
1940–44	388	271	79	61	2,136
1945–49	805	419	194	54	5,512
Annual:					
1950	935	401	98	29	8,814
1951	1,014	249	87	22	6,810
1952	1,693	248	146	24	8,036
1953	1,594	320	156	27	11,296
1954	838	143	98	17	11,241
1955	560	112	143	47	[1] 15,406
1956	776	82	126	20	16,299

[1] 1955 breakdown by product was as follows (1,000 lbs.): Condensed milk, 337; evaporated milk, 13,803; cheese, 778; all other, 488.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 22.—Coffee and cacao: Production and exports from Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Coffee			Cacao		
	Production	Exports		Production	Imports	Total exports [1]
		Total	To U. S.			
	1,000 bags [2]	*1,000 bags* [2]	*1,000 bags* [2]	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:						
1935–39	959	598	369	2,511	1,446	0
1940–44	896	485	480	3,838	5,894	0
1945–49	931	607	598	11,757	2,728	2,328
Annual:						
1950	1,093	767	737	18,900	0	7,566
1951	1,100	859	810	18,979	0	3,428
1952	1,181	870	793	15,695	279	4,114
1953	1,460	1,223	1,107	18,457	2	1,453
1954	1,415	1,151	1,037	27,758	0	6,642
1955	1,600	1,391	1,226	30,469	2	11,054
1956	1,400	1,233	1,049	22,046	11	4,634
1957 [3]	1,750	.....	.....	24,250	.....	.....

[1] All to U. S.
[2] Bags of 60 kilos.
[3] Forecast.

TABLE 23.—Selected spices: Exports from Mexico, averages 1940–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Anise	Cumin	Pepper, black	Spices, unspecified
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:				
1940–44	397	211	1,041	564
1945–49	425	106	573	284
Annual:				
1950	115	2	522	397
1951	90	.....	659	421
1952	31	4	672	260
1953	79	.....	459	159
1954	353	143	365	448
1955	139	11	679	68
1956	99	0	1,041	53

TABLE 24.—Henequen, fiber and cordage: Exports from Mexico, total and to the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Fiber [1]		Twine, cordage, and rope	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	To U. S.
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:				
1935–39	178,099	141,529	0	0
1940–44	103,028	94,476	28,318	26,393
1945–49	78,385	64,806	60,973	36,213
Annual:				
1950	168,332	143,160	57,875	43,794
1951	82,262	68,111	70,704	55,192
1952	41,760	37,754	63,647	59,787
1953	79,324	58,140	70,049	68,440
1954	60,882	56,074	100,468	98,288
1955	46,310	46,054	139,864	136,485
1956	14,555	14,460	115,894	113,253

[1] Includes export classifications: fiber unspecified and fiber stained.

TABLE 25.—Miscellaneous hard fibers: Exports from Mexico, total and to the United States, 1955 and 1956

Type of fiber	1955		1956	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	To U. S.
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Broomroot	4,925	2,857	6,678	3,616
Sansevieria	46	11	20	20
Ixtle de lechuguilla fiber	818	818	115	115
Ixtle twisted fiber	454	406	935	933
Ixtle cut and prepared [1]	18,818	7,474	16,726	5,578
Mill waste [2]	9,636	8,009	3,913	1,241
Ixtle de Palma fiber	589	511	739	739
Ixtle sacks	18	18	2	2
Ixtle string	9	7	24	24
Ixtle cloth	990	990	611	611
Other ixtle manufactured	9	2	7	4

[1] Largely lechuguilla .
[2] Believed to be largely lechuguilla.

TABLE 26.—Cotton: Acreage, production, yield per acre, and exports from Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Acreage	Production	Yield	Exports [1]
Average:	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bales*	*Bales per acre*	*1,000 bales*
1935–39	725	334	0.461	98
1940–44	855	424	.496	49
1945–49	1,034	577	.558	345
Annual:				
1950	1,880	1,151	.612	742
1951	2,183	1,273	.583	972
1952	1,937	1,250	.645	992
1953	1,866	1,240	.651	951
1954	1,820	1,780	.978	1,253
1955	2,700	2,250	.833	2,027
1956	2,125	1,750	.826	.....

[1] Crop years beginning in year shown.

TABLE 27.—Cotton: Acreage and production in Mexico, by regions, selected years, 1945–46 to 1956–57

Region	1945–46		1946–47		1955–56		1956–57	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
	1,000 acres	*1,000 bales* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bales* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bales* [1]	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bales* [1]
Matamoros	227	99	284	163	725	454	672	422
Sonora-Sinaloa	37	14	25	9	749	640	348	336
Mexicali	153	65	168	176	482	428	338	341
Laguna	331	192	193	137	319	396	346	347
Delicias	72	26	74	29	174	197	171	186
Juárez	33	14	45	27	46	34	58	40
Don Martin	39	20	32	15	37	9	16	10
Others	12	4	22	4	[2] 168	[2] 92	[2] 89	[2] 68
Total	904	434	843	460	2,700	2,250	2,125	1,750

[1] Bales of 480 pounds.
[2] Regions of La Paz, Monterrey, and Nuevo Laredo are increasing in importance.

TABLE 28.—Copra, cottonseed, and sesame seed: Production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Copra	Sesame seed	Cottonseed
	Short tons	*Short tons*	*Short tons*
Average:			
1935–39	26,351	28,593	145,362
1940–44	23,279	59,722	172,948
1945–49	36,749	76,336	222,811
Annual:			
1950	50,645	88,209	488,483
1951	53,796	95,434	535,054
1952	54,809	100,255	493,269
1953	66,265	96,732	517,199
1954	82,906	100,103	728,228
1955	88,184	72,649	855,384
1956 [1]	88,000	99,207	803,576

[1] Preliminary.

TABLE 29.—Peanuts and flaxseed: Production and exports from Mexico, 1952–56

Crop	Production				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Short tons	*Short tons*	*Short tons*	*Short tons*	*Short tons*
Peanuts	77,146	80,048	86,224	88,184	82,672
Flaxseed	64,922	53,797	19,027	11,023	14,330
	Exports				
Peanuts, shelled	16,128	17,050	16,062	21,888	14,413
Peanuts, unshelled	4,893	6,127	4,675	4,375	7,605
Flaxseed	21,709	16,406	.....	.....	2,000

TABLE 30.—Selected vegetables: Acreage and production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Green peppers		Green peas		String beans		Eggplant	
	1,000 acres	*Mil. lb.*	*1,000 acres*	*Mil. lb.*	*1,000 acres*	*Mil. lb.*	*1,000 acres*	*Mil. lb.*
Average:								
1935–39	25	42	10	20	5	9	99	0.8
1940–44	35	69	25	30	8	11	131	1.0
1945–49	39	82	25	27	8	10	180	1.4
Annual:								
1950	40	85	27	27	7	10	210	1.7
1951	41	86	27	30	8	11	205	1.6
1952	41	89	28	30	8	11	213	1.6
1953	41	88	30	31	8	10	279	2.0
1954	43	87	30	35	8	10	257	1.8
1955	47	93	31	36	9	12	168	1.2
1956	.....	95	.....	35	.....	.....	.....	.....

TABLE 31.—Selected fresh vegetables: Exports from Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56 [1]

Average and year	Green peppers	Green peas	String beans	Eggplant
Average:	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	4,385	5,009	566	547
1940–44	10,033	8,375	114	503
1945–49	17,506	5,908	45	462
Annual:				
1950	17,332	7,527	205	514
1951	19,105	8,466	591	170
1952	17,284	6,967	776	86
1953	21,424	8,446	1,490	432
1954	13,397	7,110	1,927	90
1955	5,123	5,900	1,865	51
1956	6,911	7,418	3,523	130

[1] Practically all exported to United States.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 32.—Potatoes: Acreage, production, and imports into Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Acreage	Production	Imports [1]			
			Seed potatoes		Table potatoes	
			Total	From U.S.	Total	From U.S.
Average:	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 bu.*	*1,000 bu.*	*1,000 bu.*	*1,000 bu.*	*1,000 bu.*
1935–39	37	2,547	.....	.....	44	26
1940–44	60	3,892	.....	.....	49	49
1945–49	69	4,692	.....	.....	196	148
Annual:						
1950	74	4,955	.....	.....	48	37
1951	76	5,067	.....	.....	136	5
1952	77	5,116	.....	.....	443	76
1953	76	5,510	199	29	81	48
1954	79	5,514	124	39	5	5
1955	85	6,145	196	67	13	12
1956	89	6,246	0	0	14	14

[1] Additional quantities enter through the free ports, largely from the United States. These vary from year to year. For 1952–55 they were as follows (1,000 bu.): 1952, 347; 1953, 402; 1954, 283; and 1955, 313.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 33.—Tomatoes: Acreage and production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Acreage	Production	Average and year	Acreage	Production
	1,000 acres	*Million pounds*		*1,000 acres*	*Million pounds*
Average:			Annual—Continued		
1935–39	40	151	1952	147	771
1940–44	73	329	1953	153	817
1945–49	110	583	1954	154	827
Annual:			1955	154	813
1950	139	782	1956	.....	772
1951	142	790			

TABLE 34.—Tomatoes, fresh: Imports into, and exports from, Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56[1]

Average and year	Imports	Exports	Average and year	Imports	Exports
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*		*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:			Annual—Continued		
1935–39	948	53,956	1952	12,055	237,471
1940–44	994	141,391	1953	10,423	260,705
1945–49	3,176	235,688	1954	9,231	182,640
Annual			1955	3,435	108,583
1950	7,588	182,040	1956[2]	1,955	111,041
1951	5,337	219,150			

[1] Practically all trade with the United States.
[2] Preliminary.

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 35.—Onions, garlic, and chilies: Acreage and production in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Onions		Garlic		Chilies	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
	1,000 acres	*Million pounds*	*1,000 acres*	*Million pounds*	*1,000 acres*	*Million pounds*
Average:						
1935–39	10	29	4	8	30	15
1940–44	17	51	9	18	46	30
1945–49	21	73	11	18	46	30
Annual:						
1950	24	88	21	36	47	33
1951	25	91	22	36	48	34
1952	25	97	22	38	48	34
1953	27	106	24	44	61	42
1954	31	120	23	43	59	39
1955	34	124	22	44	51	32
1956	.....	132	.....	44	.....	33

TABLE 36.—Onions: Exports from, and imports into, Mexico, and U. S. share of trade, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Exports		Imports	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	From U. S.
Average:	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1935–39	78	78	1,313	1,298
1940–44	4,397	4,318	1,188	1,174
1945–49	6,579	6,575	1,873	1,362
Annual:				
1950	8,383	8,344	672	668
1951	8,869	8,869	5,849	5,518
1952	11,799	11,775	1,008	1,003
1953	18,087	17,740	9,793	9,777
1954	14,288	13,805	2,778	2,778
1955	10,752	10,752	6,812	6,806
1956	17,822	17,813	364	357

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 37.—Garlic and dried chilies: Exports from Mexico, total and to the United States, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Garlic		Dry chilies	
	Total	To U. S.	Total	To U. S.
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average:				
1935–39	2,909	2,640	182	182
1940–44	6,362	4,621	3,138	3,132
1945–49	8,399	4,302	2,443	2,438
Annual:				
1950	11,834	10,224	1,662	1,649
1951	15,487	5,221	2,846	2,832
1952	10,225	3,402	2,817	2,806
1953	13,563	4,997	2,231	2,211
1954	12,868	11,177	1,911	1,874
1955	11,135	9,290	3,620	3,567
1956	8,117	6,803	3,422	3,382

Source: Anuario Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

TABLE 38.—Sugar: [1] Acreage, production, and trade in Mexico, averages 1935–49, annual 1950–56

Average and year	Acreage	Production [2]	Exports		Imports	
			Total	To U. S.	Total	From U. S.
	1,000 acres	*1,000 short tons*	*1,000 short tons*	*1,000 short tons*	*1,000 short tons*	*1,000 short tons*
Average:						
1935–39	215	347	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
1940–44	306	430	.2	.2	22.0	1.5
1945–49	406	523	66.2	9.9	44.9	.6
Annual:						
1950	453	622	24.6	1.8	[3]	[3]
1951	490	778	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1952	519	808	9.4	9.4	[3]	[3]
1953	545	911	65.4	12.3	[3]	[3]
1954	611	960	77.6	52.1	[3]	[3]
1955	[4]	1,041	88.5	59.0	[3]	[3]
1956	[4]	870	35.0	26.8	51.4	51.4
1957 [5]	[4]	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....

[1] All sugar converted to raw basis.
[2] Production in crop years ending in year shown.
[3] Less than 100 tons.
[4] Not available.
[5] Preliminary.

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